

Lesson 12 MUCH FRUIT

He That Abideth in Me, and I in Him, the Same Bringeth Forth Much Fruit - John 15:5

What Do You Think? In John Chapter 15 does the word fruit refer to a good deed that is done or does it refer to an inner state that motivates the good deed?

I. The Much Fruit of Christ

- a. Thus far in this passage our Lord had spoken of fruit and more fruit. He now adds the thought: **much fruit**.
- b. There is in the heavenly Vine such fullness and the care of the divine Husbandman is so sure of success that much fruit is referred to as a **certainty**.
- c. Much fruit is not a demand, it is not work, but rather the simple **promise** of what must come to the branch that lives in the double abiding—he in Christ, and Christ in him. “The same bringeth forth much fruit.”.
- d. However, there is an important distinction to be made in the Christian life between work and fruit. They are not the same. A machine can do work: **only life** can bear fruit.
- e. Work implies effort and labor: the essential idea of fruit is that it is the silent natural restful produce of our **inner life**. Christ exemplifies this truth by His life.
- f. The Lord did not labor to produce spiritual fruit. Spiritual fruit was the natural outcome of His inner life. He **reveals** this to us in several passages. First notice the intimate connection between Jesus and the Father. John 10:30 *I and my Father are one. KJV*
- g. Due to this intimate connection, virtually everything Christ did was a product of the Father’s will. Christ did not labor or struggle in order to do His Father’s will, rather, it flowed **naturally** from His connection with the Father. John 5:19 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. KJV*
- h. Christ’s singular obsession and sole purpose for being was to do all that the Father **desired** of Him. His doing flowed from His Being and it could not have been otherwise John 4:34 *My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. KJV*
- i. Because of who Christ was in His inner life, it was evident that everything He did was the **work** of God. John 10:32 *Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? KJV*
- j. This example lived by Christ has its **parallels** in the lives of all of His disciples would bear much fruit.

II. The Much Fruit of the Believer

- a. The word **fruit** is often used figuratively in Scripture of offspring, (Gen 30:2); and is also used in a variety of forms, such as, “They shall eat of the fruit of their own way,” i.e., experience the consequences. (Prov 1:31).
- b. Fruit is sometimes used to describe an outcome of a **good deed** that is done; I.E. a collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem. Rom 15:28 *So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, NIV*
- c. However, a closer look will reveal to us that this is **not** how the word is used in the context of John Chapter 15. Here the word fruit must be understood in the context of a transformed life. It is the transformed life that is fruit.
- d. As Christ our heavenly Vine demonstrated with His life, so, we too are called upon to bear much fruit. If we abide in Him and He abides in us then His life will be **manifest** in our life. This is the essence of fruitbearing.
- e. Conversely, a law can compel human work: only **love** for God can spontaneously bring forth spiritual fruit. This kind of love (agape) for God is a fruit that is wrought in us by the Holy Spirit. Matt 22:37 *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. KJV*
- f. The gardener may labor to give his apple tree the digging and fertilizing, the watering and the pruning it needs; yet his work can do nothing to produce the **actual apple**. Work does not equal fruit.
- g. Good works are connected to fruit bearing, but they **are not** the same as fruit. This, Jesus pointed this out when he condemned the works of those who thought, their works were sufficient to win favor with Christ. Matt 7:22-23 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. KJV*

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- h. As Jesus pointed out, under the compulsion of law and conscience, or under the influence of natural inclination and zeal, men may diligently engage in good works, and yet find that they have no **spiritual** result. They do not bear fruit.
- i. There can be no reason but this-their works are man's effort, instead of being the fruit of the Spirit, which is the restful, natural outcome of the Spirit's operation within. **Only** the Spirit's fruit is the fruit that remains.
- j. When Christ abides in us and we abide in Him then much fruit is the inevitable result. This "*much fruit*" is always entirely **consistent** with what one would expect the Vine to produce. Matt 5:44-45 *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;* ⁴⁵ *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: KJV*
- k. The healthy life of the believer **naturally** bears much fruit. This fruit is manifest in moment by moment thoughts, decisions, actions and words that reflect the fact that one is abiding in Christ and being transformed by His Spirit. Gal 5:22-25 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* ²⁴ *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* ²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. KJV*
- l. Fruit then, is the product of the Holy Spirit; the inward condition that He produces which generate good works. Spiritual fruit is evidenced by **seeing** from God's point of view in each situation, in every trial, and all afflictions. This is much fruit.
- m. Spiritual fruit is the motive force behind our works: I do because I am in Christ and He in me. It is only when good works come at the prompting of the indwelling Spirit that they are acceptable to God and glorify Him. They are then **His works**. Ps 104:31 *The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works. KJV*

III. The Law of Much Fruit

- a. If we would desire to understand how we may bear much fruit we will need to come and listen to our holy Vine as He reveals the **law** of sure and abundant fruitfulness: "*He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.*"
- b. It should be plain to us that even though the gardener cares for one thing-the strength and healthy life of his tree: the fruit materializes on the branches because of the nature of the tree. The work of the gardener **can not** produce fruit.
- c. It is not our willing and our running, it is not by our might or by our strength that much fruit is brought forth. There is only **one source** of spiritual fruit. Zech 4:6 *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. KJV*
- d. If you would bear much fruit you must see that this fruit is dependent upon the quality of your **inner life** as it relates to Christ. Jesus says to us that "without me you can do nothing."
- e. It is Christ who must do all! The Vine provides the sap, and the life, and the strength: the branch waits, and rests, and **receives**, and bears the fruit.
- f. Our task is to see to the abiding; He will see to the fruit, for He will give it in you and through you as the Holy Spirit transforms you **day by day**.

IV. Application

- a. Oh, the blessedness of being only branches, through whom the Spirit flows and brings God's life to men! Let us begin each day with Him, to know in truth that we are abiding in Him. Christ tells us that nothing less will do.
- b. We have been planted into Christ with the calling and the power to bear *much fruit*. Accept that place. Look much to God, and to Christ, and expect joyfully to be what God has planned to make you, a fruitful branch.
- c. As you examine your life before God what evidence do you have of the Holy Spirit's fruit:
 - 1. In your thoughts?
 - 2. In your responses to others?
 - 3. In your responses to circumstance?