



Pastor Milton Carter ■ King George Church of God ■ Wednesday Night LIVE ■ July 8, 2020

Key Spiritual Concept:

When we become a Christian (Christ-follower), the Holy Spirit works in our lives to empower us to live a productive or fruitful life. Just as an apple tree produces apples and an orange tree produces oranges, our lifestyle as a Christ follower produces spiritual fruit. This is a life that glorifies God by blessing the people around us and those persons who encounter our lives.

Key Biblical Passages:

- John 15:4-5
- John 15:16
- Galatians 5:22-23

1. What does the Bible say about Fruitfulness?

a. Spiritual Fruit is a Direct Result of Whatever Controls our Lives

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Galatians 5:22-23

The Fruit of the Spirit of God is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

b. Fruit is Produced in all Periods of Life

Psalms 92:13-14

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the house of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.

c. God is the Gardener – He desires us to be fruitful

Note the Teaching of Jesus in John 15:1-11

d. Followers of Christ will be recognized by their Fruit (what our lives produce for Christ)

Matthew 7:15-20

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

2. Conditions of Fruitfulness

a. We must be Connected to Christ

Psalm 1:3 (NIV)

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

John 15:4–5 (NIV)

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

b. Our Hearts Must Be “Good Soil”

Parable of the Sower and the Seed

- Seed fell on the hard ground – birds snatched the seed
- Among Rocks—no roots; sun scorched the seed
- Among Thorns – Choked the seed
- Seed fell in Good Soil – seed grows and produces a harvest!

Matthew 13:23 (NIV)

But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

c. We Must Die to the Old Life

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Think and Grow...

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about the “fruitfulness of your life?”
2. As you read and meditate on Galatians 5:22-23, what “Fruit” of the Spirit needs to be further cultivated in your life?