

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 1

Lesson 14 BE FRUITFUL

7 November, 2014

“For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(vs. 8)

The Bible affirms that the Lord wants us to produce fruit. It is His desire that we bear something in this life that is beneficial to Him—because it is beneficial to others.

LUKE 13:6-9 The example of the fig tree. If you plant a fig tree, you expect it to produce fruit. If it doesn't, it serves no purpose at all. In fact it is better to remove it so it doesn't cumber (obstruct, hinder, burden) the ground.

- Most people are like the fruitless fig tree. Using God's resources and taking up space, but not doing anything that is a benefit to others.
 - Christians should not be barren. We need to diligently seek to add the spiritual traits to our life that will make us fruitful; serving a purpose for God here on earth; being a blessing to others.
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JOHN 15:1-16 Jesus is the “vine.” The vine doesn't want any branches that don't bear fruit. Those are branches that just consume all the good things that the branch provides, but they give nothing in return.

- If a branch **DOES** produce fruit, that is a branch that the husbandman (God the Father) will work on so that it gets stronger and produces even more fruit.
 - As a Christian, you are part of the Lord. The life and power that is in Him can operate in you to produce fruit. That's what He's looking for.
 - Without the Lord, **“ye can do nothing”** (vs. 5), but since you are NOT without the Lord (Christian), you can bring forth much fruit—if you abide in Him.
 - The Father is not glorified by our simply being a branch that is part of the vine. He is glorified when we produce fruit (vs. 8).
 - Christian, the Lord has **“chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit”** (vs. 14). He decided that anyone who trusted in Jesus and received salvation would be the ones he would choose to “bring forth fruit.”
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COL. 1:10 You cannot be saved by good works, but Christians are expected to be **“fruitful in every good work.”**

ROM. 6:20-22 We all have sinful fruit in our lives from the days before we came to Jesus Christ. We're ashamed of that rotten fruit and wish it wasn't there, but it still stinks up our life from time to time.

- Now that we're saved, we have an opportunity to produce a tree full of brand new beautiful fruit that's a blessing to God and a blessing to man.
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2 COR. 9:9-10 God wants you to sow things that will **"increase the fruits of your righteousness."**

- The type of seed that you sow determines the type of tree and the type of fruit on that tree.
 - If you want **"fruits of your righteousness"** then, you've got to sow seeds of "right." **"The tree is known by his fruit"** (Mt. 12:33). The fruit tree yields fruit after his kind (Gen. 1:11).
 - Apply this to your child raising: if your child goes astray, don't let it be because of the seeds you sowed in their life.
 - Apply this to your friendships; if they end, don't let it be because you sowed bad seed.
 - Apply this to witnessing: don't give anybody the right to point the finger at you at the Great White Throne of Judgment—and say, "He/she didn't tell me about Jesus." Sow that seed! It's right!
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Phil. 1:11 There are honors prepared for those who lived their Christian lives **"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness."** If you give yourself wholeheartedly to the work of the Lord, it is not in vain. If today you give more, sacrifice more, deny yourself more, love the Lord and others more, you'll find out when you get to Heaven that God has not failed to notice your godly efforts. The compensation is going to be above your expectations.

Gal. 5:22-24 The Holy Spirit will produce **"The fruit of the Spirit"** if I will let the Lord have His way in my life and add the things in 2 Peter 1:5-7 to my salvation.

- If you continue to live after the flesh, you will not bear the fruit of the Spirit in your life.
 - Absence of fruit is evidence that the lusts of the flesh are present in your life.
 - The presence of fruit is evidence that the flesh has been put down.
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JAMES 3:16-18 We ought to desire to sow "the fruit of righteousness" so that our lives produce the things that God expects. We are to be peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated (accommodating, compliant), merciful, fruitful, impartial, and without hypocrisy.
