

The Blessed Man - The Spiritual Fruit of the Blessed Man – Part Seven

Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The relationship between the Blessed Man and God has a profound and lasting effect upon the character of the man. The resulting change in the man's behavior, which is due to the influence of God's Spirit upon his nature, is called "Spiritual Fruit."

Fruit is defined in this context as: A product, the effect or consequence of an action or operation, or an Issue or result.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the visible manifestation of the invisible life of the Holy Spirit at work in us. The degree to which we submit ourselves to God, respond to His influence, and maintain a growing relationship with Him determines the degree to which the Fruit of the Spirit will be evidenced in our lives. The Lord longs for us to remain in His presence and maintain continuing fellowship with Him.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Abide means to continue, to dwell, to remain nearby, to stand in, and to tarry in. More than 130 times in the New Testament the phrases "Christ in you" and "you in Christ" are used. This indicates the emphasis God places on our relationship with Him. The Fruit of the Spirit is developed in our relationship with Him and can only be cultivated to the extent that we remain in His presence. **What we cannot be in the natural flesh, we can be by the touch of the Holy Spirit of God upon us.** Out of the touch of His Spirit flows a life in the Spirit that reflects the integrity of our relationship in Him.

John 15:1-4

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

As a branch, our purpose for being established in Christ is to bear fruit. Those who don't eventually bear fruit are separated from the vine. Those who do bear fruit are pruned of those things in their lives that would hinder the development of their fruit.

Pruning Is Necessary To Growth.

Fruit does not grow in the crotch of the tree. It grows out on a limb, but the limbs must stay attached to the tree... We often face difficult and unnatural settings in life where everything in life operates against spiritual excellence.

It is precisely at these times that God gives us His anointing so that our spiritual excellence can be manifested. We receive, by the power of God's Spirit, the ability to demonstrate the character of Christ. It is God's desire to work those Christ-like qualities into our very nature to such a depth that they become our natural and normal responses, even in pressure situations.

Fruit does not grow independently of the tree.

As the life flows from the tap root up through the main trunk out through the limbs, the fruit grows. However, Jesus does not say that we are known by our bark or by our leaf. It is by our fruit we are known. Not only are we known, but also He becomes known by our fruit.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

As we develop fruit within our Christian character, our witness to others becomes stronger.

Sinners can examine our lives and become convinced that Jesus is real and is for them. People are examining us to see what we really are. The Lord is saying to us, "You disciples, you followers, you believers, I am going to anoint you with my Spirit and enable you by the anointing of the Spirit to become what you cannot become on your own. I am going to put you on display throughout the world for everyone to look at, examine and compare. I want your quality of life to so characterize my being that all people will want to place their faith in me."