

A Life of Spiritual Fruitfulness



A well known pastor once spoke of a little boy who went over to a pastor's house, where the pastor was doing some carpentry in his garage. The boy simply stood there and watched him for quite a long time. The preacher wondered why this boy was watching him and was finally so curious that he stopped and said, "Son, are you trying to pick up some pointers on how to build something?"

The little boy replied, "No. I am just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer." I found this to be very funny but it really made sense to me. Our children hear and see the things we do and the way we handle difficult situations and sometimes mirror our actions or echo our words. Paul says in Galatians 5:22 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control . . ."* (NKJV). It is clear the life of a Christian should be characterized by these things. Which begs the questions, am I being fruitful? Or is the opposite true of all of us? Let's us go in the order of scripture and ask ourselves instead of love, do we have hatred, bitterness, or are we being bias in our lives? Instead of being a joyful Christian, are we in constant sadness? Instead of God's peace in us, is there chaos? Instead of being gentle in our response, are we being short tempered? Instead of faith in our Creator, are we anxious about everything? Well I'm sure you know where I'm going with this. If so, we either don't know God that well in our lives or know God at all! It's time for us to recommit ourselves to Christ and be fruitful.

I often ask myself this question at the end of day just as I lay my head to rest. "Did I make a difference today?" But can one truly measure their effectiveness? The Bible teaches us ways to measure ones spiritual growth and that's by our fruit. Jesus said, *"My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father"* (John 15:8 NLT).

I will end with this story. One day I was working at a small Methodist Church in La Feria Texas where my father-in-law was the pastor. I was trying to pass the phone cable from one room to another through a small hole I made in the wall that was around eight inches thick. It was very difficult to pass the wire through. So I had my son Jonathan, who was four years at the time, on the opposite side of the wall waiting to see the wire come through and pull it out. While trying effortless, I could hear my son saying "no wire dad, I cannot see the wire yet" he continued saying several times until he came to a total silence. All of sudden I heard my son say "dad, I love you" through the small hole in the wall. This lit my heart because I often tell my son Jonathan that I love him and to hear my son tell me he loved me was clear evidence of my fruitful choice of words spoken in front of him. I believe that a true disciple will produce spiritual fruit because Jesus said *"You will know them by their fruits..."* Matthew 7:16a (NKJV)