



I CAN BEAR FRUIT AS I ABIDE WITH JESUS!

Yesterday, we embraced the truth that the Holy Spirit delights to give us his “fruit” to enable us to live for God. As we yield to him, we become “fruit-filled” sons and daughters, walking in all of his blessings. The beautiful truth about God’s fruit doesn’t stop there, though. He didn’t just come to *give* us fruit. Through grace, he allows us to *bear* fruit for him. We aren’t only invited to be “fruit-filled” but also “fruitful!” No one on the planet has ever been made quite like you, and no one on the planet has a mission field quite like yours. Your heart, passion, gifting and personality are all unique — just like the myriad of people you get to invest in and love. God’s design is that you would be so full of his fruit that it would spill out, leaving seeds of hope and life in others that would sprout into their unique fruit for God. This isn’t what God grants to a select few.

It’s what he lavishes upon *you!*

The best part is that bearing fruit for God is shockingly simple. In fact, he says that you truly achieve it only **one** way, and it isn’t through your experience, charisma or effort. You must simply *abide* with him. You must live in his presence, breathing in his grace, his peace, his comfort and his love moment by moment. All you have to be today is a son or a daughter. That’s it. As you do, he promises to fill you so deeply with all that is his that it *has* to come out! You are a fruit-bearer, and you stand today in the midst of a field desperate for seeds of hope! Believe it and walk in your destiny!

“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” John 15:5 – Emphasis added.

“So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: *bearing fruit in every good work*” Colossians 1:10 – Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. *We can make “bearing fruit” so much more complicated than it really is. Sometimes, we look so hard for the earth-shaking testimonies that we fail to recognize the “little seeds” of obedience, encouragement and faithfulness to God around us. Take a minute and reflect as you ask the Lord to show you how your everyday life is impacting your family, your friends, your workplace, your church and your community. What did he show you?*
2. *Other times, we make “bearing fruit” difficult because we don’t realize the power and life that is really in us. We don’t believe we have anything “special” to offer — so we allow opportunities to pass us by. Who is someone in your life right now who needs the fruit you have to bear? How is God calling you to invest in them? Do you sense this will be a short-term or long-term investment? How will you know the difference?*

3. Finally, we make “bearing fruit” difficult when we make it all about our effort instead of all about our stillness. Be honest before the Lord: is your soul in a place of rest before him? Are you regularly taking time to be quiet before him and just sit in his presence as a son or daughter? Is stillness your place of “being”?

PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, you amaze me. I am astounded by the blessings you so freely give. Your invitation to me to bear fruit for you is almost too wonderful for me to imagine. I choose to empty myself of all my running and all of my activity and to simply sit at your feet. I don't have all the answers, and I don't need to. You, Jesus, **are** my answer, and my portion and my treasure. I desire to draw my life from you so that I will produce good fruit for your Kingdom. Help me to rely on you instead of on my own thoughts and ways. I choose to abide in you today.*

LISTENING TIME:

Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don't rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING



TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:

Show a picture of a vineyard. Ask, “What needs to take place for grapes to grow?” Share how Jesus is the vine, how he has planted us in good soil, how the Holy Spirit is the water and how the Father of Lights is beaming down upon us so our only responsibility is to stay with the vine! Ask, “Where are you too busy? Is there anything you are doing that you aren't sure God *wants* you to be doing? What does it look like for you to rest in his presence?” Pray for one another!

TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:

Pray that your words and actions will be like sweet fruit to the lost. Pray about any relationships or circumstances in which your life does *not* currently look like sweet fruit. Ask for the Holy Spirit's revelation and obey what he tells you!