

## A GOOD TREE

**Mat 12:33** Either make the tree sound (healthy and good), and its fruit sound (healthy and good), or make the tree rotten (diseased and bad), and its fruit rotten (diseased and bad); for the tree is known and recognized and judged by its fruit. (Amplified)

How is your life going? Is it steadily getting better and increasing as you have hoped or is it just status quo or even getting worse over the long run? Many people think that their lives and what happens in their lives is really up to God or dictated by circumstances. The Bible is clear that you have a choice on how your life will turn out. In Matthew 12, Jesus makes a startling statement. He said that you can make a tree good or you can make a tree bad. Now in the natural you will get the kind of tree based upon the kind of seed you sow, but you can't make it good or bad. However, Jesus here is talking about people themselves and the good or bad fruit that proceed from them. He actually said that WE can **make** our tree good, so that the fruit is good or we can **make** our tree bad, so that the fruit turns out badly. The kind of tree we are and what we are producing is up to us! The good or bad things in our lives come more from us than to us!

As Christians we are unique out of all of creation. We actually in makeup contain both good and bad roots to the tree of our life. We have natural bad roots called the flesh but we also have good spiritual roots that are from our reborn spirit. We have the opportunity to decide each day which roots we will draw from. **We can make our tree (life) and fruit (the production from our life) good**. How can we make our tree good and thus see good things produced in our lives. It starts with a commitment to follow God in your life and not play around with the world and with sin. It starts with a desire to have God play the central role in your life. If you do not seem to have this desire then ask God for it. According to Philippians 2:13, God will give you this desire and the necessary power to live it out! The next step to making your tree good is to renew your mind. Your heart is your inner man. It contains your spirit and soul. Your spirit is already turned on and renewed, but you need your soul turned on to God and renewed. You renew your soul part of your heart by meditating on God's Word. You need to start literally seeing yourself as the Bible describes you.

You need to start literally seeing yourself having what the Bible says you have. You need to start literally seeing yourself doing what the Bible says you should and can do. See yourself that way! See it and allow yourself to feel it! **When your heart is able to see yourself in a new and godly way with corresponding emotions, man watch out!** Talk about being a transformer! You will be transformed by the power of the Word of God and the Spirit of God. You can make your tree different and its fruit different today!

1. Do you have a desire for God to play the central role in your life?
2. If not, are you willing to be made willing? If so, tell God this now.
3. How do you see yourself? What kind of emotions are produced when you see yourself that way? If they are negative then you have a faulty belief system about yourself!
4. Here is an exercise: Look at Ephesians chapter 1. What are some things it says about you in this chapter? Spend some time closing your eyes and seeing yourself that way. Envision yourself being that way and feeling the way you would if it were true of you. (It really is true!) If you have trouble doing this, don't give up until you can. This may take days or even weeks!

Confession: I choose today to make my tree good and its fruit good. I will do good things today and good things are coming into my life! I see myself as God sees me, having what God says I have, and doing what he says I can do! I am a good tree today!