

GSM

We Live By Faith

Faith For Fruit

I. Fruit bearing- The Calling

A. Our calling as Christians is to bear fruit- Jesus introduces the new concept of fruit bearing just before He was crucified. His call was to move from works of the Law to works of faith- fruit bearing

1. **John 15:2-8- Fruit, more fruit, much fruit**

2. **John 15:16- lasting fruit**

B. Fruit bearing speaks of union with the Lord- Jesus in the book of John introduces the concept of a coming union with believers and Himself- **John 17:21-23**

C. [**Gen. 2:9;17**]- Fruit bearing is a call to exchange trees. It is a call to move from the tree of knowledge of good and evil [**trying to improve yourself by external rights and wrongs**] unto the tree of life [**internal life of Christ expressing Himself in and through you- Truth**]. Those in the first tree have two options. Follow the good and resist the evil [**religion/legalism**], or follow the evil and resist the good [**Heathenism**]. Both modes of living are rejected by the Lord. This is living in the flesh. Living in the flesh is not just living in evil, but also living in moral good to try to be more like God.

D. Jesus and Paul laid the foundation for the Christian life which is crucifixion with Christ and being put union with and in Christ. If you do not understand from the beginning that the Christian life is one of union and bearing the fruit of another [**Christ**], then **we will try to produce our own!** The best we can accomplish is plastic fruit that we tape on ourselves!

E. Bearing fruit is accomplished by faith not effort. It comes by drawing upon the Tree of Life- Jesus Christ within us.

II. Fruit bearing- In Romans

A. **Romans 1:13**- Paul was coming as a farmer to plant grace seed and reap a fruitful harvest from their faith just as was happening in the rest of the Gentiles.

B. **Romans chapters 5-8 is the foundation for fruit bearing-** These chapters speak of the change of trees- from Adam [**tree of knowledge of good and evil**] to Christ [**tree of life**]

1. **Romans 6:6-7- The foundation to fruit bearing**

2. Jesus became man- spirit, soul, and body to be our complete representative. He died as our representative and took our sin and death in His human spirit, soul, and body. His death was our death

3. This death freed us from the principle of sin that held dominion over us because of Adam. All that was in Adam [including us] did in the last Adam. **Joshua 3:15-16-** When the ark [type of Christ] hit the Jordan [type of death] then the waters were heaped up as far back as the city of Adam. This is a picture of Christ dying to all that was in and from Adam.

4. **2 Cor. 5:14-** All died in Christ

5. **Our old man-** what we inherited from Adam died with Christ- our old spirit, soul, and body died when Jesus' human spirit, soul, and body died. However, this happened in person of Christ. Christ is in the Spirit realm. Therefore the only part of us that has been fully redeemed is our spirit. Our soul and body part of who we used to be is not redeemed at salvation because they are not in the spirit realm. We experience freedom from sin and over the flesh by faith in the finished work of the cross.

6. We reckon ourselves having died to sin and reckon ourselves alive in Christ- **Romans 6:11**

7. **Romans 8:11-** The Spirit will execute the death sentence upon the flesh and bring forth the resurrection life of Jesus in us- this is fruit bearing.

8. Sin did not die, we died to sin. Instead of removing sin from us, He removed us. We then were transplanted into Christ and now can bear His fruit.

9. If we are ignorant of what took place at the cross we will be left to self-improvement. Christians learn new principles but are processing them through the tree of knowledge of good and evil- they are trying to be more like God by what they do and don't do. They use prayer, study of the Word, faith [as they know it], and all the other things they learn to help them improve themselves to be more like God or godly.

10. Changing our behavior could never fix our problem. Our problem was much deeper than what we did, it went as deep to who we were in our nature. To fix the problem we had to die! God did this for us in Christ at the cross.

C. Romans 6:21-22

1. The only fruit the unbeliever can produce is death- This comes from their union with Adam.
2. The Believer bears a different fruit from His union with Christ-holiness- This is produced from the Holy One in the Believer.

D. Romans 7:4

1. **We died to the Law-** [tree of knowledge of good and evil] through the body of Jesus. Jesus body in His perfect life and through His death is the complete fulfillment of the Law. He has met the requirement for complete acceptance with God in our behalf. We died to the old man and unto his way of living- the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
2. **My story of the ink blots**
3. We died to self improvement. Now we are joined into union with the Lord to bear His fruit. He does this in and through us.
4. We are called from **trying to change** [into His image] to **yielding to transformation** [into His image by the Spirit of Christ] by believing the truth of the finished work of Christ.
5. Jesus revealed to Paul that Christ wants to reveal Himself **IN** us, **not by us- Gal. 1:15-16**
6. Romans 7 is the story of a Christian who knows he is forgiven and is born again- He has new desires for good, but has not yet understood that he must let go of the old tree- the old mode of living from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Paul was trying to do the good and refrain from the bad. Sin however, was using the Law against him. The strength of sin is the Law. Only when Paul got the revelation that the Christian life is all about letting Christ live in and through us, did he find victory. Victory is not found in what you do and keep from doing, it is found in a person- Jesus.

E. **Romans 15:28-** The offering Paul took to Jerusalem was called fruit. This was just of product of the love of God that God shed abroad into their hearts. Gentiles and Jews in the natural hated one another. For this gentile church to give sacrificially to the Jews was a supernatural work of grace.