

There are Pastors & disciples that wrestle with the results of fruitfulness. I want to look at this idea and gain an understanding on this promise. Q: Am I fruitful? (Yes or No)... WHY?

I SALVATION & FRUITFULNESS:

A- The context of our text: Jesus is giving the disciples and future disciples the Promise of fruitfulness.

1. V2 Bear more fruit, V4 abiding in Christ & bearing fruit, V5 we will bear much fruit, V8 fruit brings glory to God & fruit is an identifier of discipleship to Jesus, V16 we have been appointed to fruitfulness.

2. All of this is the promise we as believers in Jesus Christ have been promised.

B- So we need to understand what is the fruit Jesus is referencing here? What is the promise he is describing?

1. Its people! So; Jesus promises us that we will reach people.

a. How? As we abide in Him, He will abide in us, & prune us to be fruitful.

i. As we surrender to Jesus, and take our daily cross; *Which is the denial of self*. God at work in us enables us.

b. Jesus also gives the Promise of the Father: Which is? The HG... He speaks about the helper.

2. So: What we need to understand about fruitfulness is that it is a miracle!

a. Its a promise from God, He enables & equips us to be fruitful, our reliance is on Him in us & at work through us.

3. This was something put into me as a disciple: An understanding of the PROMISE... When I wasn't seeing the promise fulfilled, i was taught to approach it as UNACCEPTABLE.

a. With that posture of faith; My wife & I were fruitful.

II THE LACK OF FRUITFULNESS:

A- Now; There can be some reasons why we aren't seeing the promise fulfilled;

1. Bad Branches: **John 15:2** every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

a. Bad branches can involve: Sin; This will hinder your fruitfulness... *wages of sin is death*.

loss of dominion

b. Character issues: Rude, Bad Attitude or heart towards your wife, Pride, Insecurity

c. The issue isn't that we have bad branches (We will always have them spring up), the issue is that we wouldn't let God Prune them out... We hold onto them.

2. Inactivity: Sometimes men aren't laboring for fruit... Fruitfulness requires action.

a. It takes work. It takes time. It takes commitment.

i. Mark 4:26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground... LABOR.

b. Some men lack fruitfulness b/c they aren't active: witnessing & follow up

i. In SF & Roc... every now and then someone would be stressed out b/c we do so much... But the church was growing, & yes it was busy... we were active.

3. Lack of Faith: You lack faith in Gods promise. Men buy into the narratives.

a. It didn't work in NM because there's a spirit of rebellion. It didn't work in the NE because its way harder.

b. But really you lack faith in the promise. Either Jesus was telling us the truth or He wasn't.

III THE FRUITFUL PASTOR:

A- So: What do I want you to take from this?

1. I want you to understand that Gods will is FRUITFULNESS. He intends for us to be fruitful.

2. He will enable us to be fruitful. He will supply us with what we need to obtain this promise.

3. Do all you can. Pray all you can: Augustine was credited with saying: *Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.*

B- Ultimately you must decide what you want.

1. If I want to be fruitful, what will I do about it?

2. My wife and I decided long ago that we wanted to be fruitful. We didn't want to just fill a position, we wanted to see what God promised us.