
Bearing Spiritual Fruit

1. Introduction to the Fruit of the Spirit

The key to bearing spiritual fruit is found in your relationship with Christ.

Philippians 1:11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God. (NIV)

We are grafted into the life of Jesus Christ. Through our relationship with the Jesus Christ we produce fruit.

Romans 11:16-24 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." ²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. ²² Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. ²³ And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree! (NIV)

2. Truths drawn from this scripture

This scripture is about Israel (the Jewish people) and the Gentiles (the non-Jews). God often used horticultural and agricultural illustrations to teach spiritual truths. Israel was often referred to as an:

- Olive tree
- Fig tree
- Vineyard
- Cedar tree
- Grape vine

The olive branch does not have independent life in and of itself. It only is alive because it receives nourishment from the root.

Spiritual life and physical life have a lot in common.

First you are given LIFE, and then you are given NOURISHMENT. You need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to have spiritual life. And then your health and vitality comes from your relationship to the root. This is why not everyone is in the same spiritual condition. If merely being "in Christ" was sufficient we'd all be equally Christ like and equally produce the fruit of righteousness. We are told to grow in Christ.

1 Cor 3:1-2 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. (NIV)

1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. (NIV)

Eph 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (NIV)

Notice the spiritual progression / growth:

Colossians 2:6-7 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (NIV)

- Received Christ Jesus as Lord
- Continue to live in him
- Rooted and
- Build up in him
- Strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and
- Overflowing with thankfulness (NIV) = Fruit

The Root *SUPPORTS* us.

John the Baptist said he was not fit to *CARRY* Jesus' sandals. (Matthew 3:11)

Jesus spoke of one who would be *BEARING* a pitcher of water. (Mark 14:13)

Scriptures speaks of Jesus stopping those who were *BEARING* a coffin. (Luke 7:12)

Acts 21:35 When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be *CARRIED* by the soldiers. (NIV)

Jesus Christ, our Root, doesn't just help us, he is our spiritual life source and our source of spiritual nourishment. He bears us, supports us and carries us!

Colossians 3:3-4 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (NIV)

We do not support the Root

3. What is the Fruit of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:19-23 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (NIV)

Note that the word for "fruit" is singular. What are the implications?

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. ³ "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (NAS)