

WEEK 4

4. The Fruits He Asks

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15: 5)

The result of abiding in His words is bearing ‘fruits’. Fruitfulness is very important to God, so He lifts and prunes us to produce many fruits.

The reasons for producing fruits:

- Producing fruit is an expression of the life of Jesus (John 15, Philippians 1: 21-22)
- Producing fruit is an evidence of discipleship (John 15:8)
- Producing fruit is bringing glory to God (John 15:8)
- Producing fruit is blessing others. (Philippians 2:12-18)

The Significant Truths

- We are called to serve
- We are commanded to the mission
- We are prepared
- We are provided

At least four types of fruits we can have when we continue abiding in His words:

1. The fruits of character

There is a conflict between the sinful and divine nature in Galatians 5: 16- 26. The desire of the flesh is totally against the spirit (verse 17). When we are not in the spirit, we produce different fruits of character that can not please God (Romans 8:7-8). However, when the Spirit is in control (Abide in Me and He is us - John 15:4-5), we are bearing His fruits since His spirit will overcome the flesh (Romans 6:22) when we set our mind in the spirit that brings life and peace (Romans 8: 5-6).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*; against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

2. The fruits of conversion

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (1 John 5:1, ESV)”

Conversion means turning away from sin and unbelief (repentance) and trusting in Christ alone (faith). It is entirely walking away from the old path and starting a completely new path in Christ. Conversion is so profound that it changes the entire person since it involves radical changes in mind, affection, and will, which lead to an intimate relationship with God. It is a gift of God since sin paralysed our spiritual, moral, and ability to make choices and caused us to live powerless to sin. However, God performed the work of miracles through Christ (Rom. 6:5 & 1 Peter 3:18) and the

Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14 & Rom. 8:9-11) to overcome our stubborn and rebellious hearts so we can respond positively to the gospel. He actively called us out of darkness and for us to walk in His light. Therefore, “in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself” (2 Cor. 5:19). Hence, it will bring joyfulness to the community of believers as Paul and Barnabas described in Acts 15:3 “So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.” Repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin that we need to walk and serve the master.

“Unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

(Matthew 18: 3)

“5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2: 5-10).

3. The fruits of dedication and good work

Scripture uses fruit as a word expressing a deed that reflects the condition of people's hearts. When people abide in Him, their deeds will be good fruits. In Romans 15, Paul described the financial offering for helping the poor in Jerusalem as the good deeds of people in Macedonia and Achaia (Verse 26-27). When Paul accomplished this delivery, he was confident that he would bring full blessings to believers in Rome (verse 29).

“When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you (Rom. 15:28)

Another example is in Colossians 1: 9-12, where Paul prays for believers in verse 9:

- The action is the same as the belief
- Fully pleasing to God
- Much fruitful in His power

“so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; (Colossians 1:10)

4. The fruits of praise

The aim of the Hebrew book is to encourage Jewish believers to continue to focus on Jesus in the midst of pressure and temptations. Particularly in chapters 10-12, the author urged readers to be steadfast in the truth regardless of uncertain circumstances. The last chapter describes how believers can praise God by presenting sacrifices pleasing to God through proper Christian behaviours. Hebrews 13:1-4 explicitly encourages practical behaviour such as brotherly love, hospitality, supporting those who are mistreated and avoiding sexual immorality. Furthermore, verse 5 consists of one of the important practical behaviours: awareness of the danger of greed since an unhealthy desire for money will lead to many issues that can destroy many lives. The issue does not lie in money, but the love of money is the issue, as 1 Tim said. 6:10 says, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evils”. Hence, how one views and uses money determines whether it is good or evil.

The antidote for this issue is contentment or satisfaction with what we have. Inner contentment is a significant key to having a positive Christian life that will praise Him in every life situation. We may not have everything, but we have Jesus, who is the ultimate source and provider of our needs. The hope in Jesus is the foundation of our satisfaction in any circumstance since “He will never leave us nor forsake us” (Hebrew 13: 5). Let us calm our souls as hope is only in the Lord (Psalm 131:1-3). Therefore, we can live a life of peace, free from anxiousness (Matthew 6: 25-34).

"God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! (Psalm 47:5-7)

“ My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all that day (Psalm 71:8)”

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding
cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
(Psalm 150: 1-6)

By Abiding by His words this week, let us understand the authority of His God and encounter it personally by applying 3 C (Comment, Commands and Consistent)

Day 1

C1. Reading John 15: 5 - 8, 14-17

What is the significant thing that you notice from this reading?

C2. Mediate the word by asking personal questions to yourself:

What do I notice personally in the words of God for the first time in this reading? What things am I reminded need to change or repent from these words?

What commands does God want me to do from this reading?

Write Down your reflection and be creative.

C3. Consistent

Obedying what God instructs you personally by applying it daily

Discuss with others in your Oikos what you experiences with God.

Day 2

C1. Reading John 14: 15- 21 & John 15: 26-27

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 3

C1. Reading 1 John 5: 1 - 12

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 4

C1. Reading John 14: 11-14, 1 John 4: 7 - 21

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 5

C1. Reading Psalm 100:1-5 & Psalm 103: 1-3

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 6

C1. Reading Matthew 25: 14 -30

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 7

C1. Reading Galatians 5: 16 - 26 & Romans 8: 5-8

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.