



# Secrets of the Vine

## FRUIT BEARING BASICS PART 1

SUNDAY MORNING • 7 JANUARY 2007

### INTRODUCTION

Fruitful life or futile life?  
Here lies a wasted life?

To get to the life God has in mind for you, you have to be willing to make an exchange. You have to be willing to go against the grain of what you may have assumed to be true, to be willing to respond to God in new ways that won't feel at all safe or smart, at least to begin with.

(Day 1 *Secrets of the Vine Devotional*)

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

### I. The Passage

#### **A** The Vine is Jesus CHRIST

"I am the true vine." John 15:1a

#### **B** The Vinedresser is God the FATHER.

"My Father is the vinedresser." John 1 5:1b

#### **C** The Branch is the BELIEVER

"Every branch in Me" "You are the branches." John 15:2a, 5b

#### **D** The Fruit is the RESULT of the believer's good WORKS

"You should go and bear fruit." John 15:16b

**What is the relationship between good works & bearing fruit?**

1. In scripture fruit is often closely associated with good WORKS  
"And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. Titus 3:14
2. Fruit can only be produced by those "in CHRIST"  
"Every branch in Me" John 15:2a
3. Fruit is a good work done with a God-honoring MOTIVE.

Jesus hasn't led us to this torchlight circle just to make our dreams come true. Our dreams, like the disciples', are always too small. We are here to fulfill God's dream – that we will bring Him glory through a remarkably abundant life. (*Secrets of the Vine*, p. 22)

4. Fruit is any action of any believer that pleases GOD.  
"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work. Colossians 1:10a
5. Fruit is the result of your effort and LABOR.

<sup>2</sup>For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor Philippians 1:21-22a

### II. The Pitfall: Who is responsible to bear the fruit?

The Misconception:

- I am not responsible to bear fruit because God bears the fruit.

The Truth:

- I am responsible with the power God gives me to bear fruit for Him.
- We cannot do it alone, but God works THROUGH us. We cannot change people, but God often uses people to change people.

#### **A** PRODUCTIVE: You have been appointed to bear fruit.

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and [YOU] bear fruit. John 15:16a

#### **B** PARTNERSHIP: You have been empowered by God to bear fruit.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor (present active), striving according to His working which works in me mightily. Colossians 1:28—29

**Fruit-bearing Principle #1:**

Every Believer bears fruit at one of the Four Fruit-bearing **LEVELS**.

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:2, 5

Level	Scripture	Fruitfulness
Level #1	<i>"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away;</i>	<b>no fruit</b>
Level #2	<i>and every branch that bears fruit He prunes,</i>	<b>fruit</b>
Level #3	<i>that it may bear more fruit.</i>	<b>more fruit</b>
Level #4	<i>He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit." John 15:5</i>	<b>much fruit</b>

- A** Every believer bears fruit at one of the four levels at all **TIMES**
- B** Every believer is to grow to the "much fruit" **LEVEL**.
- C** Every believer should increase fruitfulness as they **MATURE**.

**Fruit-bearing Principle #2:**

Every Believer has been created to do specific works prepared by **GOD**.

- A** Good works cannot earn eternal salvation as it is a **GIFT**.  
For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9
- B** Good works cannot earn or obligate **BLESSING** from God.  
For we are His workmanship, Ephesians 2:10  
  
But by the grace of God I am what I am . . . 1 Corinthians 15:10  
  
For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13
- C** Good works have been prepared for us by God in **ADVANCE**.  
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand. Ephesians 2:10a
- D** Good works prepared by God is where we are to focus our **LIVES**.  
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them**. Ephesians 2:10

**Fruit-bearing Principle #3:**

Every Believer increases fruit by the Three Secrets of the **VINE**.

**Secret 1: From "No Fruit" to "Fruit" God TAKES AWAY**

<sup>2</sup>"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away" John 15:2a

**Secret 2: From "Fruit" to "More Fruit" God PRUNES**

<sup>3</sup>"Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." 15:2b

**Secret 3: From "More Fruit" to "Much Fruit" we ABIDE**

<sup>5</sup>He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit." John 15:5b

**What will your life look like?**

**Will it be FRUITFUL, or FUTILE?**

**What will your life produce?**

**No Fruit?**

**Fruit?**

**More Fruit?**

**Much Fruit?**

**For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.**

**To Him be the GLORY forever. Amen.**

**Romans 11:36**

**"By this My Father is GLORIFIED, that you bear much fruit."**

**John 15:8**