



**Growing followers of Jesus increasingly bear fruit**

**1. Fruit is the outward expression of the inner nature**

Matthew 3:8

Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance

Mark 4:20

And those are the ones sown *with seed* on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept *it* and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred *times as much*.”

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brothers *and sisters*, you also were put to death in regard to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *brought to light* by the Law, were at work in the parts of our body to bear fruit for death.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

Luke 6:43

For there is no good tree that bears bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree that bears good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit. For *people* do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.

## **2. Growing followers of Jesus bear Jesus' fruit**

John 15:1-16

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit... <sup>5</sup> 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..<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.... <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Colossians 3:10-11

<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— <sup>11</sup> a *renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

### **3. There are seasons of fruitfulness**

Psalm 1

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

<sup>3</sup> He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water,  
Which yields its fruit in its season  
And its leaf does not wither;  
And in whatever he does, he prospers

### **4. Jesus' part is to produce fruit and our part is to abide and bear fruit**

John 15:4-10

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

### **5. Abiding is not passive but engaging**

1 John 2:6

<sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

2 Peter 1:2-8

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. <sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence**, in your faith **supply** moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these *qualities* are yours **and are increasing**, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*they make you actively working and fruitful*)

### **Prayer to abide in Jesus and bear His fruit**

Jesus I love you and want to be fully connected and abide in you. I forsake all other sources and immerse myself fully in you. Empower me, live in me and through me. Produce your fruit in my life. I commit myself to actively abide and to seek after you and your fruit. I commit myself to add to my faith and work out everything you work in. As a doer of your Word, I will shine your light, walk in your steps, and bear your fruit. In Jesus' name, amen.