

BELIEVERS ARE FRUIT BEARERS

By: Sue Whisenhunt

It is our destiny to be bearing fruit and fruit producers; we are the planting of the Lord Himself. When He came into our lives, we were born-again inside-in our spirit. He, the Lord Himself with Holy Spirit molds us just like the potter molds the clay into a beautiful pitcher and vessel for His purposes.

Isaiah 18:2-6 NKJ

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

“Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. **Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: “..... can I not do with you as this potter?” says the LORD. “Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand...”**

The first vessel was marred with sin because of the fall of Adam. When we were born-again as we received Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we were made again inside, in our spirit; “so he made it again into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to make.” Here not only is a prophecy, but a picture, a prophetic demonstration of the great plan of redemption.

Now, we can be assured that He will continue His work in us as we submit to His leading and guiding us; when we read His Word -the Bible daily and as we talk with Him saying, ‘yes Lord’ in obeying Him and His Word. One of the best teachings I ever heard, as a newly saved person, was to read the Word

every day with the full intent and purpose of doing it (James 1:22 NKJ). Being a doer of the Word! Our lives are changed by being a doer of His Word.

Philippians' 1.6 says, "**being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;**"

It is our choice how far we grow and become like Him; how far we go in this journey walking with Him and how much fruit we produce. He desires to mold us into the image of His son Jesus. He desires us to grow up, to not remain as babes. Just as in the natural, you desire your babies and children to grow up; that's a natural process; so it is in the spiritual. In both the natural and the spiritual, it takes that child's' will and choice in cooperation with the guiding parent figure in their life. The Father God, Jesus and Holy Spirit became our spiritual parent figure when we are born again.

Romans 8:29-30 AMP

For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning **to be molded into the image of His Son [and share His likeness]** ...And those whom He thus foreknew, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). **And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].**

We need to choose to look at the Goodness of God

And view ourselves as God sees us.

Also how He views our brothers and sisters,

And agree with Him!!!

What does God say about you?

We must believe that God is working in our lives
and also in our fellow Believers' lives.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 AMP

I planted, Apollos watered, **but God [all the while] was making it grow and [He] gave the increase.** So neither he who plants is anything nor he who waters, **but [only] God Who makes it grow and become greater.** He who plants and he who waters are equal (one in aim, of the same importance and esteem), yet each shall receive his own reward (wages), according to his own labor. **For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with and for God; you are God's garden and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] God's building.**

WE CO-LABOR TOGETHER WITH GOD

We are His co-laborers, His fellow-workmen; yes, that's correct! You and God the Father, God the Son, Jesus and God the Holy Spirit work together. We must be cooperating with Him to be fruit bearers in His Kingdom. One of our most important commands, in the Word, as sons of God is to bear fruit. John 15:1-5 Amp says, "I AM the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses *and* repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more *and* richer *and* more excellent fruit. You are cleansed *and* pruned already, because of the word which I have given you. Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you

bear fruit unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.”

(John 15. 1-5)

We are to be like Him, Jesus, in every aspect of His life. You may ask fruit bearers, what fruit are you talking about? When a plant is planted in the natural, it is expected to produce the same as what has been planted. It is expected to reproduce. Our natural world, that God created, gives examples and speaks loudly and clearly about His spiritual ways and Kingdom. We were planted into Him and into His Kingdom. God prophesied this several times in Isaiah. Isaiah 60:21 NKJ says, “Also your people *shall all be* righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, **The branch of My planting, The work of My hands,** That I may be glorified.” And in Isaiah 61:3 AMP “...**that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.**” As you can readily see, we are the planting of the Lord himself, so we are to reproduce Him in our lives; and help others grow up into Him.

GOD IS ABLE TO KEEP THAT WHICH IS COMMITTED TO HIM!!!

HE SAID, “HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US.”

Philippians 2:13 AMP tells us, “[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.” So this adventure is together with Him, with your Father God, with Jesus, and Holy Spirit who now represents Jesus in every way. They are One. This conforming to His image happens as we co-

operate with Him. He gives us desire and power to do His will for His good pleasure. I Peter 5:10b AMP says, "Who has called you to His [own] eternal glory in Christ *Jesus*, will Himself complete *and* make you what you ought to be, establish *and* ground you securely, and strengthen, and settle you." What a promise that is to us. We are the garden of the Lord, the planting of Himself in our spirit when we were born-again, born-anew; made new creatures in Christ Jesus (I Corinthians 5:17). As we trust (have faith) in Him believing His Word. He will bring Himself forth as we read the Word and are doers of that Word. Believing the Word brings forth doers of that Word. I like to look at the word - believing as be-living. As we "live and dwell in Him", we bear fruit for His glory. We take on the nature and the character of God himself. What an honor, He has bestowed on us.

Into HIM is who HE is making you!!!

You have power over how you choose to think;

You have power over what you do!

You have power to choose who you agree with,

And what you speak, and pray.

Romans 15:13 NKJ says, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you **may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**"

WHERE DO WE HAVE JOY & PEACE? IN BELIEVING!!!

In the Amplified Bible, Romans 15:13 AMP says, "**May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound *and* be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope.**"

We become bearers of fruit as we believe and experience our faith in action. This Fruit of the Spirit is the very nature and character of God Himself. The seed of each of these fruit was planted within your spirit, in your spirit man, when you were born-again; when you accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of your life. These seeds, in your spirit, are the very nature and character of God that need to grow up into the fullness of Him. As we look at each fruit, and learn of Him, we see and come to a realization that this is God's attitudes towards us. This is how God treats and entreats us.

Galatians 5:22-23 NKJ says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." For God is love, He is joy and peaceful towards us. He is longsuffering, kind and good to us. He is faithful and gentle towards us; and He has self-control toward us. We are His prized and supreme creation (Psalm 8:3-8). Yes, we are His supreme creation; His last creation in the six days of creation. He loves us so much He sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross and pay all the penalty of sin for us, so we could be set free and live with and for Him. We are planted in the House of the Lord, actually more so, we are planted as the House of the Lord, for he lives and breathes and has His being in us. So, we can say, "I am the house of the Lord!" What did Jesus say His House was called? He said, "It is written, My House shall be called a House of Prayer...."

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Let us take a closer look at each fruit and what they mean in depth. As we look at each fruit, in a deeper way, we will understand the Greek of each word; you will see how Love is the tree with different fruit flowing from it. Viewing the Word LOVE in I Corinthians 13.4-8a NKJ, describes the Love of God. God's LOVE has all the fruit in it. This is how God loves you and me.

Being filled with the Spirit calls us to the character and nature of Jesus Christ, Father God and Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit grows in our lives as we love Him, read His Word, cooperate with Him, serve Him and talk with Him on a daily basis. The books in the New Testament are actually love letters to you personally. They are God's Words to you personally.

Now the below descriptions written of the Fruit of the Spirit are from the Greek definitions of them. The seed of every fruit was planted in your spirit when you were born-again. So in reality, they are the Fruit of your spirit. These below descriptions are defining these fruits in full manifestation or at full development. Remember, they start in your spirit as a seed when you accepted Jesus into your heart. They are the seed of Christ's nature and character in your spirit. As you water them with the Word, prayer and intimacy, obedience and serving Him; they grow in you and come forth out of you, for others to pick and enjoy.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

From the Greek

LOVE – A Divine love, (in other words - the Love of God) A strong, ardent, tender, compassionate devotion to the well-being of someone.

JOY – An emotional excitement, great gladness, cheerfulness, delight over blessings received or expected for self or for others. [Thankfulness is the avenue to Joy; having an attitude of thanksgiving is an avenue to Joy].

PEACE – A state of rest, quietness, repose, and calmness; An absence of strife, tranquility; Freedom from fears, agitating passions and moral conflicts; Harmony and order in the midst of strife and temptations.

PATIENCE or LONGSUFFERING – patient endurance, to bear long with the frailties, offences, injuries, and provocations of others, without murmuring, repining, or resentment. The word denotes lenience, forbearance, longsuffering; also included is the ability to endure persecution and ill-treatment. It describes a person who has the power to exercise revenge but instead exercises restraint.

GENTLENESS OR KINDNESS – A disposition to be gentle, soft-spoken, kind, even-tempered, cultured and refined in character and conduct. Goodness in action, sweetness of disposition, gentleness in dealing with others, benevolence, kindness, and affability. The word denotes the ability to act for the welfare of those taxing your patience. [The Holy Spirit removes abrasive qualities from the character of one under His control].

GOODNESS – The state of being good, kind, virtuous, benevolent, generous, and beneficent; God-like in life and conduct.

FAITH – Assurance, to be persuaded; Absolute dependence and confidence upon and reliance in the Word of God; Full surrender, yieldedness and obedience to all known Truth; To trust wholly and unreservedly in the faithfulness of God. The living, divinely implanted, acquired, and created principle of inward and wholehearted confidence, assurance, trust, and reliance in God and all He says.

MEEKNESS – The disposition to be gentle, kind, indulgent, even balanced in tempers and passions, and patient in suffering injuries without feeling a spirit of revenge. It is also described as a disposition that is even-tempered, tranquil, balanced in spirit, unpretentious, and that has the passions under control. Meekness does not have an indication of weakness, but of power and strength under restraint/control. The person who has this seed

developed into a fruit in their life pardons injuries readily, corrects faults and rules his own spirit well.

TEMPERANCE or SELF-CONTROL – A moderation in the indulgences of the appetites and passions of the flesh and passions of the soul.

“....against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:23b-24). We have crucified these fleshly passions and desires in the watery grave when we were water baptized. No law can condemn one with the fruit of the Spirit. Law only condemns sin, not righteousness!!! The Law of sin and death (Romans 8:2) has no adverse effect against and cannot limit, in any way, the Fruit of the Spirit in operation in your lives. As you pursue daily, the nature and character of your Lord Jesus Christ becoming conformed to His image, you will develop these seeds into fruit in your lives.

We desire a harvest of fruit which consists of Righteousness, that is, being in conformity to God’s will in purpose, thought and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God.