

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

STOP LIVING IN THE PAST

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PART 6: BEARING FRUIT

When a believer in Christ comes out of the past, there should be a sign that confirms that it has been defeated and the person is now living in the present and looking toward the future. That sign is fruit. When there is much fruit in your life, it means you have been able to break free from the past. The Bible mentions three kinds of fruit.

1. The first kind of fruit is produced in the flesh with the procreation of children. **Genesis 1:28**
2. The second kind of fruit is in the spiritual realm. **Galatians 5:22-26**
3. Spiritual fruit will in turn give birth to good works. **Ephesians 2:10**

Begetting children does not require any spiritual skills since humans have a sexual drive that will automatically result in the pregnancy of women. People try to manage the birth of children either through some kind of birth control or by killing the unborn child.

As Art Linkletter stated many years ago, *“Even cockroaches multiply, but to love and raise a child requires love, caring and patience.”* Linkletter was adopted and never knew his biological parents. **Proverbs 22:6**

PREPARING TO BE FRUITFUL

God has not designed the believer in Christ to automatically be fruitful but has given them the ability to be fruitful if they act accordingly. **Philippians 2:12-16**

A branch on a tree cannot bear fruit unless it is connected to the trunk of the tree. Jesus stressed that we are to abide in Him or there will be no fruit. **John 15:1-10**

The branch that is connected to the trunk of the tree is responsible for sprouting leaves and flowers to prepare for the production of fruit. **Ephesians 6:10-18**

GOD IS LOOKING FOR A HARVEST

We are saved by grace but God expect to find fruit in our lives. **Luke 13:6-9**

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for the Messiah and his message was for people to repent and bear fruit of genuine repentance. **Matthew 3:1-10**

Jesus made it clear that the fruit existing in a person's life will determine if they are a good or bad person. **Matthew 7:15-20; Luke 6:43-45**

Jesus likened the earth to a vineyard whose owner expected to get a dividend from it. **Matthew 21:33-41**



A CHRISTIAN MUST DIE TO HIMSELF

What does it mean to die to self? It means that you are giving up the plans and ambitions for your life and choosing to surrender to God by saying, *“Not my will but yours.”* **John 12:23-26**

Jesus stated the same thing in the Gospel of Matthew, but instead of dying to self, He was talking about taking up the cross. **Matthew 10:38-39**

Taking up a cross is the denial of self. **Mark 8:31-38**

The message of dying to self and take up the cross is so important that it is found in all four Gospels. **Luke 9:23-26**

A Christian who has died to self will not get offended, does not get riled up, and does not seek his own fortune but is constantly looking for a way to please God and do His will.

BEARING FRUIT

The struggle is over when you have truly died to self and there will be no effort in bearing fruit. The fruit will begin to grow, and as the fruit is picked from you, more fruit will grow to replace what was taken. There will be an abundance of fruit. **Ephesians 5:9**

When you are in the will of God, you will be happy and content and won't even have to think about bearing fruit because it will grow by itself. **Philippians 1:11**

As a joyous Christian, you will radiate the power of the Holy Spirit. When you are asked to help someone or to get involved in a project for the Lord, there will be no hesitation, just fruit flowing in abundance like on a conveyer belt. **James 3:17-18**

You will not have to struggle or work hard to have fruit in your life when you are moving in the power of the Holy Spirit because it will be there constantly flowing out of you! **Galatians 5:22-25**

Welcome to living in the present and rejoicing in the future!

<p>CHOICE Psalm 1:1-2</p>	<p>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.</p>
<p>EXPERIENCE verses 3-4</p>	<p>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.</p>
<p>DESTINY verses 5-6</p>	<p>Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.</p>

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?