

ACTION GUIDE #7: BEAR MUCH FRUIT

NOTE: This is not a 21-Day Challenge action guide. For the most part, bearing much fruit takes time. Fruit trees take years to produce. However, we should know what our strengths are and in what areas we are fruitful. We should be actively using these talents to make life better for others.

We Are Judged by What We Do

In the end, it is not what we say that is as important as what we do (MAT 21:28-31). The scriptures tell us (ECC 12:14; 1 PET 1:17; REV 20:12) every one of us will be judged on Judgment Day (ROM 2:5-6) 'according to our deeds' and (2 COR 5:10) 'reward[ed] according to his own labor.'

The Parables Show Keeping Score is Important

The parable of the wheat and the tares showcases the difference between people that bear fruit and those that do not bear fruit (MAT 13:24-30). Wheat and tares look the same. The difference is that wheat produces grain that can be made into bread. Tares produce nothing useful and are therefore burned. If you are not producing fruit, you are taking up space. In the parable of the sower Christ explains several different conditions that would impact our ability to bear fruit (MAT 13:18-23). In this parable, just like the parable of the talents (MAT 25:14-30), we see that God is interested in HOW MUCH fruit we bear.

Jesus' Final Words of Wisdom

Hours before Jesus was crucified, He shared incredible information with His disciples. What does He talk about in His final hours? He talks about bearing fruit. He calls Himself the true vine, and His Father the vinedresser. He says the Father takes away those branches that don't bear fruit and that He prunes those branches that do bear fruit (JOH 15:2). Interestingly, even before Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist said that "every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire (MAT 3:10; LUK 3:9). The clear message is that Jesus is very much interested in our bearing MUCH fruit.

So how much fruit are we bearing?

Fruit can be hard to measure. Our church has a flower committee? They beautify the stage (ISA 60:13). The ambiance of services is improved by this committee! Their work is pleasing to God and to those that worship. But how much fruit does this bear? How do we measure it? It's difficult. Therefore, we must pray for God to open our eyes to see our fruit from His perspective. Here are some areas that should be measured.

1. OURSELVES: Start with the nine fruit of the Spirit. Are we bearing fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace... GAL 5:22-23)? This is internal fruit in our hearts, minds and souls. How would we score ourselves on each of these elements?
2. OUR HOMES: How are we doing in raising children, the fruit of our loins?
3. OUR WORK: Are we bearing spiritual fruit at work or are we a 'closet Christian'?
4. OUR CHURCH: Are we bearing MUCH fruit with our spiritual families?
5. OUR COMMUNITIES: Are we a lamp on a hill?

How are we using our talents to make life better for others?

In the parable of the talents, everyone was given at least one talent. What are we doing with our talent(s)? What area is God nudging you to spend more time in? Can you share your fruit with others? Can you measure your growth? How MUCH fruit are you bearing?

Please share your results, comments and suggestions! happy@tekeffect.net.

CONCLUSION

All these laws point to pleasing God with the way we focus our minds and our actions, so that the world may know and all can grow in true joy and HAPPINESS!

The Bible is our owner's manual. We should read it and know it like the back of our hands.

The Tree of Life is available for you. That is what the Bible is all about. At the end of the Torah, as Moses gives final instructions to God's people, God tells them to choose life! (DEU 30:19)

Choose LIFE! Choose blessings. Choose to be successful. Choose to accept the gift of eternal life.

Choose to Be Happy. Choose the abundant life.

(JOHN 10:10b) I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

An abundant, happy, successful life is waiting for you! In fact, Jesus tells us to ask for it.

(JOHN 16:24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.