

# What God Calls Fruit!

## I. Luke 13:6-9 The Parable of the Fig Tree

- A. The Lord Jesus Christ seeks fruit from every member of every church in His kingdom.
- B. He will cut down those members without fruit after a space of time for repentance.
- C. For a full exposition and application of this parable of Jesus, see "[Cut It Down.](#)"

## II. John 15:1-11 Disciples Bear Fruit and Have Full Joy

- A. Fruitbearing requires abiding in Jesus Christ, which is believing and obeying Him.
- B. Branches that do not bear fruit are taken away, withered, and burned in judgment.
- C. Branches that do bear fruit are pruned, so that they will bear more fruit to God's glory.
- D. God is glorified through much fruitbearing, which is the true mark of disciples indeed.
- E. The lesson of fruitbearing in this passage is to the intent disciples might have full joy.

## III. II Peter 1:5-15 Fruit and Its Benefits Are Listed

- A. Here are eight things that Peter carefully defined as fruit to prove election and heaven.
- B. If these things abound in a man, it proves he is fruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- C. If these things are lacking in a man, at best he is a carnal Christian with a worldly view.
- D. Therefore, great diligence should be given to bear these confirming proofs of election.
- E. Therefore, God's ministers should make frequent mention of these things to all saints.
- F. **Faith.** This is the complete confidence and trust in God and His promises that enable a believer to resist doubts and fears and zealously obey God's commandments regardless of difficulty or opposition. See Hebrews 11:1,6; Rom 4:17-21; Eph 6:16; James 1:2-4.
- G. **Virtue.** The noble strength and moral purity to do good and right at all times, like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, whose husband entirely trusted her in all things. See Prov 31:10-31; 12:4; Ruth 3:11; Phil 4:8; Acts 17:11; Matt 5:8; Jas 1:27; I John 3:3.
- H. **Knowledge.** The increase in understanding of God, His word, righteousness, and wisdom to approve excellent things in holding the truth and conforming more perfectly to His will. See Phil 1:9-11; 3:10; Col 1:9-10; Eph 1:18; 5:17; Rom 12:2; I Cor 14:20.
- I. **Temperance.** The self-discipline and self-control to rule your body and passions in order to avoid those lusts of the flesh and eyes that lead to sin against the Lord. See I Cor 9:24-27; Galatians 5:23; Titus 2:2,11-12; Luke 9:23; Philippians 4:5; Acts 24:25.
- J. **Patience.** The ability to cheerfully endure and survive negative events in your life to remain calm and committed to the course of action prescribed by God for you. See Luke 21:19; Romans 5:3-5; 15:4-5; James 1:2-4; 5:10-11; Col 1:11; II Thess 1:4.
- K. **Godliness.** Religious sobriety with commitment to conform entirely to God's character and will for your life in contrast to worldliness or other compromise with sin. See Matt 5:43-48; II Cor 7:10-11; I Tim 4:7-8; 6:3-6; II Tim 3:5; Titus 2:12; Heb 12:28-29.
- L. **Brotherly kindness.** The positive aspects of love, in which effort is made to help and serve others with acts of hospitality, kindness, support, warning, and true friendship. See John 13:35; Rom 12:10; Col 3:12; Ep 4:32; I Tim 6:17-19; Heb 13:1; Acts 4:32-37.
- M. **Charity.** The negative aspects of love, in which a person forbears, forgives, and overlooks the offences caused by others to maintain peace and unity in a relationship. See Matthew 5:43-48; I Peter 4:8; I Cor 8:1; 13:4-7; 16:14; Eph 4:2; Col 3:13-14.

## **What Men Call Fruit!**

Getting new names in the Book of Life  
Giving candy bars to fill your church bus  
Using "40 Days of Purpose" each year  
Getting your 3-year-old to accept Jesus  
Singing in the youth choir or praise band  
Getting any degree from a Bible college  
Having other people think you spiritual  
Being an usher and taking the offering  
Getting annual pins for church attendance  
Using the Great Commission to live in Paris  
Teaching for \$5/hour at a Christian school  
Learning the pledge to the Christian flag  
Playing the xylophone for junior church  
Being early to every single church service  
Dressing your child better than the others  
Getting all your kids baptized before age 5  
Signing-up a full team for church softball  
Teaching AWANA to replace Boy Scouts  
Choosing to be a pastor as your profession  
Wearing a WWJD bracelet to the mall

## **Popular Sins that Offend God**

Sexual fantasies  
Personal revenge  
Complaining  
Pride and conceit  
Depression  
Exaggerating  
Hypocrisy  
Ungodly speech  
Bitterness and grudges  
Drunkenness or gluttony  
Sexual defrauding  
Railing on government  
Covetousness  
Dishonoring parents  
Ungodly television  
Slothfulness  
Anger and wrath  
Jealousy and envy  
Wifely rebellion  
Overbearing parent

## **What God Calls Fruit!**

Faith (II Pet 1:5; Gal 5:22)  
Virtue (II Pet 1:5)  
Knowledge (II Pet 1:5)  
Temperance (II Pet 1:6)  
Patience (II Pet 1:6)  
Godliness (II Pet 1:6)  
Brotherly kindness (II Pet 1:7)  
Charity (II Pet 1:7)  
Love (Gal 5:22)  
Joy (Gal 5:22)  
Peace (Gal 5:22; Jas 3:18)  
Longsuffering (Gal 5:22)  
Gentleness (Gal 5:22)  
Goodness (Gal 5:22)  
Meekness (Gal 5:23)  
Righteousness (Eph 5:9; Jas 3:18)  
Truth (Eph 5:9)  
Thanksgiving (Heb 13:15)  
Giving to the poor (Rom 15:28)  
Holiness (Rom 6:22)

## **Fruit that Stops Those Sins**

Holiness, Righteousness, Virtue  
Love, Charity, Longsuffering, Peace  
Thanksgiving, Patience, Peace, Joy  
Meekness, Righteousness, Holiness  
Faith, Patience, Temperance, Joy  
Truth, Virtue, Righteousness  
Godliness, Righteousness, Truth  
Holiness, Thanksgiving, Goodness  
Love, Charity, Patience, Longsuffering, Peace  
Temperance, Virtue, Holiness, Righteousness  
Brotherly kindness, Gentleness, Goodness  
Godliness, Righteousness, Truth  
Faith, Patience, Thanksgiving  
Virtue, Godliness, Righteousness, Holiness  
Virtue, Godliness, Truth, Holiness  
Temperance, Godliness, Righteousness,  
Temperance, Patience, Gentleness  
Love, Charity, Brotherly Kindness, Peace  
Virtue, Temperance, Charity, Peace  
Patience, Charity, Longsuffering, Gentleness