

Learning to Live as a Fruitful Responder to the Word #2

Matt 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15

Matthew 13:23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Mark 4:20 "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

Luke 8:15 "But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

The Core Concept for the Four Soils:

- *If there is life, there is salvation.*
- *If there is life, fruitfulness is possible but not certain or automatic.*

Soil #1: Wayside – Devil-Distracted Unbelievers

Soil #2: Stony – Shallow Believers Who Depart in the Face of Difficulty

Soil #3: Thorny – Entangled Believers Who Are Driven by Worldly Motivations

Soil #4: Good Ground – Obedient Believers Who Live by the Word

Nine Observations of the Good Soil:

1. *Is **Hearing** (or heard) the Word*
2. *Has a **Noble and Good Heart** (Luke)*
3. *Is **Understanding** the Word (Matt)*
4. *Is **Accepting** the Word (Mark)*
5. *Is **Holding Fast** the Word (Luke)*
6. *Is **Fruit-Bearing***
7. *Is **Making** (Matt)*
8. ***Three Levels** (Matt, Mark)*
9. *With **patience** (Luke)*

What Does It Take to Be Fruitful?

1. Ongoing **LISTENING** to the Teaching of the Word
2. Ongoing **INTENT** to Respond to the Word
3. Ongoing **EFFORT** to Understand the Word
4. Ongoing **ACCEPTING** of the Word
5. Ongoing **HOLDING** On to the Word
6. Ongoing **OBEDIENCE** to the Word in Difficulty

What Does It Mean to Bear Spiritual Fruit?

What Is Fruitfulness? Choosing to respond _____ to God's Word

John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

1. Fruit Can Be Spiritual _____ & Motivations

Gal 5:16-23 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (5:13-26)

2. Fruit Can Be Spiritual _____ as an Obedient Response to the Word

Heb 13:12-16 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

3. Fruit Can Be Spiritual _____ as an Obedient Response to the Word

- a. **Rom 6:22** But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. (6:17-23)
- b. **Eph 5:8-9** For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit¹ is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), (5:6-16)
- c. **Phil 1:11** being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (1:9-11)
- d. **Heb 12:11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (12:8-11)
- e. **James 3:17-18** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (3:13 – 4:2)

4. Fruit Can Be Monetary _____ as an Obedient Response to the Word

Rom 15:28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. (15:25-28)

5. Fruit Can Be Eternal _____ of Obediently Responding to the Word

Rom 1:13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. (1:11-15)

6. Fruit Can Be Eternal _____ for Obediently Responding to the Word

- a. **Phil 4:17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. (recorded) (4:10-19)
- b. **John 4:35-36** Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! ³⁶ And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. (rewarded)