

## THE MATTER OF FRUIT-BEARING

### I. THE PURPOSE WHICH GOD HAS FOR BELIEVERS

- A. It is God's purpose for believers to bring forth fruit in their lives for His glory (Jn. 15:16).
- B. The means by which this purpose is fulfilled is the indwelling Holy Spirit who brings the believer into a spiritual union with Christ (Rom. 7:4; 8:8, 9).

### II. THE PROCESS INVOLVED IN BEARING FRUIT

- A. Being fruitful is a matter of living in a way that allows the Lord Jesus to express Himself in and through us who belong to Him (Gal. 2:20; Phil.1:21).
- B. In order to bear this kind of fruit the believer must abide in the Lord as illustrated in the parable of the vine and the branches (Jn.15:4, 5). This is a matter of staying in fellowship with the Lord and it involves several things:
  1. First of all this relationship means surrendering ourselves to the Lordship of Christ and allowing Him to lead us (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Jn. 5:3).
  2. Secondly this relationship involves sharing everything with the Lord in prayer and reading His Word to discern His will (I Cor. 1:9; I thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:10, 17).
  3. Thirdly this relationship involves exercising faith in doing the Lord's will as He reveals it unto us (Gal. 2:20; Prov. 3:5, 6).

### III. THE PRODUCTS OF A FRUITFUL LIFE

- A. If we are abiding in the Lord as we should be then the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of Christian character in our lives (Gal.5:22, 23).

- B. Secondly as we abide in the Lord and yield to the leadership of the Holy Spirit we will be led to produce the fruits of Christian conduct which is the fruit of righteousness (Rom. 6:21, 22; Phil. 1:11).
- C. Thirdly in this relationship with the Lord the Holy Spirit will use us to produce the fruit of converts to Christ (Rom. 1:13; Acts 8:29-35).

#### **IV. THE PRUNING WHICH GOD DOES WITH FRUITFUL AND UNFRUITFUL BELIEVERS**

A. God prunes fruitful believers just like a vinedresser would prune his vines so they will produce more fruit (Jn. 15:2). This involves two methods:

- 1. God speaks to us through His Word and as we respond in a favorable manner we allow Him to remove that which is undesirable and that which obstructs the production of Fruit (II Tim. 3:16, 17; Psa. 119: 9-11; Jn. 17:17).
- 2. If we fail to heed God's Word and respond as we should then God will chasten us in order to correct us and make us fruitful (Heb. 12:6, 11).

B. God removes unfruitful believers who will not respond to His chastening (Jn. 15:2, 6).

- 1. This removal could result in "sin unto death" for believers who hate the Lord's chastening and will not be corrected by it (I Jn. 5:16; I Cor. 11:30).
- 2. This removal could result in a believer being cast into the fires of affliction and trials which will overtake him and consume his life (Jn. 15:2, 6; Ezek. 15:1-7). This is what seems to be in view in the parable of the vine and its branches.