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Newsletter
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Changed Lifestyle

Matthew 7:16-17

Ye shall know them by their fruit, Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Everyone bears fruit whether it's good fruit or evil fruit. Fruit is produced by what we're connected to. If we're connected to the world, we will produce worldly fruit. If we're Christians we should be bearing fruit of the Spirit.

A lot of Christians have left the old landmark of holiness because it's not being taught, it's not being preached. Christians are taught how much God loves them, which is correct. Christians are taught how to succeed financially, get degrees, homes, spouses, and cars.

All this is good, but we can't leave out teaching how to grow spiritually. How to live a life that will be pleasing to God. We can obtain all that the world has to offer and our souls lost in hell for eternity.

Every now and then Christians have to be reminded who they are and what is required of them as Christians. New members classes should be offered not just to teach the doctrine of the denomination, but what is required of them as Christians.

It should be explained to new members what repentance means and what occurs when one receives salvation. Repentance means the person acknowledges they are a sinner and they need a Savior. Repentance also means the individual has a change of mind of how they lived and they are willing to live according to the Bible.

When salvation is accepted from the heart, there will be a change in their lifestyle. They will no longer have the desire to participate in worldly actions ***(Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new—2nd Corinthians 5:17).***

This occurs when the person has come into vital union with the risen Christ; a decisive break with the old life at the moment of salvation. If this has not occurred; the person needs to rethink why their lifestyle has not changed.

No one has ever come in contact with the Lord and their lives have not been changed. When salvation is accepted the person needs to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit the person can't live according to the instructions of the Bible neither can they enter into the kingdom of God ***(Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God - John 3:5).*** Born of water implies natural, physical birth, since the Spirit refers to supernatural it's a spiritual birth.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the Father was looking for those who would worship in spirit and in truth. The only way one can do that is having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit ***(Howbeit when He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth for He will not speak of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak and He will show you things to come - John 16:13).*** It's the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that enables one to worship the Father in spirit and truth. Every professing Christians needs the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit to grow spiritually. This is why we have people in the church community who have been Christians for years but there is no evidence of spiritual growth.

John the Baptist instructed the Pharisees and Sadducees to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance ***(Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance - Matthew 3:8).*** He was saying to them they needed more than an intellectual change of mind. Genuine repentance proves itself by the fruits of change life.

Jesus said you will know a true Christian by their fruit ***(Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? The normal and consistent production of fruit, whether good or evil in a person's life will bear evidence whether or not that life is of God.***

New Christians as well as older Christians need to be reminded of the importance of prayer. If people aren't taught to pray and read the Bible they will not do it unless they have truly been submitted to God and His Word. Even Christians who are dedicated will sometime slack off in their time of prayer and reading God's Word.

Too many times as Christians we allow things and people to get in the way of them spending time with the Father. Prayer is what connects us with the Father. Prayer builds our faith. Prayer also makes us fall in line with what Jesus instructed us to do ***(And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint - Luke 18:1).*** Prayer is essential to every professing Christians if we want to have a life that will please the Father. Living a lifestyle that will enable us to enter heaven and bypass hell. Prayer keeps us connected with the Father. It continues to change us into the image of the Father.

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Prayer enables us to discern false teaching and doctrines. Prayer keeps us submitted to God and His instructions.

Prayer ignites the Holy Spirit which will cause the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in our lives.

When one has been baptized in the Holy Spirit they will produce the fruit of the Father (***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance - Galatians 5:22***). These fruits can only be produced by the Holy Spirit. For this fruit to develop, all nine aspects of the fruit of the Spirit must mature.

The fruit matures as we dedicate ourselves to the Lord. Fruit has three distinct characteristics: visibility, authenticity, and availability. You've never eaten an invisible fruit, you've never gone shopping for invisible fruit.

Fruit, be it an orange, apple or pear is always something you see. Prayer keeps our connection to God and allows His Spirit to be manifested in us so that others may see our fruit. If the fruit is not visible to us and others, then our prayer life and connection with God is not where it should be.

Fruit always bears the character of the tree from which it comes. Fruit never exists for itself, fruit is always available for the consumption of others. Fruit exists so that someone can bite it, be nourished by it, enjoy it, and grow from it.

You will never see an apple or pear struggling and straining to become an apple or pear. This is because the simple act of abiding brings about fruit growth. It is our closeness to Jesus that the fruit is created both in us and through our lives.

After we receive salvation we need to add to our faith. Just as we grow naturally, we should grow spiritually, if not we're not being dedicated to God.

There are more fruits other than the nine fruits listed in Galatians 5:22. (***And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance, patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity - 2nd Peter 1:5-7***). These are also some of the fruits of the Spirit.

Diligence is an eagerness to be at Bible Study, Sunday School, Sunday Worship. Eagerness to attend a prayer meeting. Diligent in our time we spend in prayer personally. Diligent in fasting without the pastor calling a fast. Diligent in reading and studying the Word of God. When this happens, we have a surety that we're chasing the things of God and not the things of the world.

Virtue is having moral excellence accompanied by spiritual virtue. Nonbelievers have virtue; there are some things a nonbeliever will not do, but they don't serve God. Christians must have both moral and spiritual virtue.

Virtue in presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice (***I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service - Romans 12:1***). Moral virtue would be if you were at the store and the cashier gave you too much change. Rather than keeping the change, you give it back to the cashier, instead of saying it was a blessing from God. Doing what is right even when people are not watching you is moral virtue.

Knowledge is spiritual truth, having knowledge of the Word of God so that erroneous doctrines will not deceive you. Having knowledge of God's Word when we pray, we know He hears our prayers because we're praying according to His will.

Knowing that there is nothing too hard for God. Knowing some prayers we pray may not be answered the way we want them to be. Knowing some prayers may not be answered such as someone being sick and we're praying for their healing. God may not answer that prayer because it's the appointed time for the person to meet their Maker.

Knowing whatever we may be going through God still loves us and His thoughts towards us is not evil, but are good to bring us to an expected end.

Temperance is having self-control and control over our emotions. Satan can't trip true Christians with fornication, lying, cheating, stealing, committing adultery, and all the other worldly actions, but he influences us in our emotions.

Satan will place people around you that can push your buttons, all he wants is to get you out of the will of God. Anything that he can do to get your emotions stirred up he will do it. Just like God uses people; Satan also uses people. Sometimes people aren't aware they are being used by Satan. As Christians we must be able to discern it's not the person, but the spirit of Satan using the individual.

When we live in the flesh, we will react in the flesh, but when we live in the Spirit we will not fulfill the desire of the flesh. The flesh will make you react to what people say and do. If the Spirit of Jesus is living within us; we should react as Jesus would act.

Patience is an endurance, willing to wait on our prayers to be answered without murmuring or complaining. Patience helps you deal with difficult people. Patience helps you while waiting in line at the store. Patience with our spouse, children and family members. These are fruits of the Spirit.

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Godliness is godlike. Naturally when a father produce a child, that child will have some resemblance of the father. They will look, talk or act like them because they have their DNA. Spiritually, we have the DNA of our spiritual Father and we should have His character and His attributes.

If we're still living according to the world, we need to rededicate ourselves to live according to God's Word. ***(Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord - 2nd Corinthians 6:17)***. The Lord has a standard for His people and He wants them to live according to His standards.

The Father drew us by His Spirit, He chose us to be His people ***(But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light—1st Peter 2:9)***. If we're still living in darkness, either we need deliverance, or the Spirit of God doesn't live within us. There is no darkness in God and there shouldn't be any darkness in us.

There is no one that hasn't sinned. We're all sinners saved by grace. There is a difference between a sinner and a Christian. Sinners practice sin, Christians don't.

We can't take different parts of the Scriptures that we will apply to our lives and reject the other instructions. The Bible was written for Christians to follow the instruction. If we follow the instructions, we will bypass hell when it's time for us to come before the Lord.

People are dying by the seconds, and sadly, the majority of them is entering hell because they would not submit themselves to the Word of God

Either we will be the servant of God or the servant of Satan, it will be one or the other. Jesus freed us from the bondage of sin, we don't have to submit to it ***(But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord - Romans 6:22-23)***. We have a choice to who we will submit ourselves too. God neither the Holy Spirit will make you live a godly life. God has given every one a choice where they will spend eternity.

Prayer, fasting, reading and studying God's Word will help us to live a godly lifestyle. If we pour into our spirit the things of the world that is what we will live by.

When Christians give more attention to the things of the world and don't focus on the things of God; they have left the instructions of God. Sadly, many Christians think they can listen, go, and do what the world do and don't have to answer to God for their disobedience.

The reason why some of the children of Israel didn't enter the Promise Land is because of their disobedience to the instructions God had given them by the hand of Moses. God gave them a promise, if they breached the instructions given them, they would not enter the land promised to them ***(After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know My breach of promise - Numbers 14:34)***.

Because of their disobedience the ones that were freed from slavery in Egypt died. The entire generation died in the wilderness and the children that were born while they were walking through the wilderness were the ones that entered the Promise Land.

God has not changed neither has His Word. Yes, God loves everyone, but when we reject His Word of instructions as the children of Israel did, we too will be lost going to a hell where there is no exit.

Jesus didn't die for us to continue to live in sin. He died to free us from sin. It's very important to read and study God's Word. This is how we know what to do and what not to do.

When we have completely surrendered ourselves to God, His Holy Spirit will lead and guide us to all truth. When we step out of line, the Holy Spirit will check us. The Holy Spirit will lead us in what or what not to do in areas the Bible does not indicate.

Jesus died for our sins so that we could be free from sin and be reconciled to God. Satan will have us busy to keep us from living according to God's instructions. Many Christians take time to do everything except take time to read the Bible and pray.

The Bible is our lifeline to keep connected to God and follow His principles. We can't apply the Word of God if we don't know the Word of God. Christians have a new life when they accept Jesus as their Savior, but He also needs to be accepted as our Lord. When we make Him our Lord we have surrendered ourselves completely to Him. Whatever He says to do, our answer is Yes Lord!



**WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES
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If you have not received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, all you have to do is ask God to forgive you of your sins. Let Him know that you are aware that you have not submitted yourself to the Lord or His doctrine. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. Ask Him to save you, tell Him you accept His salvation by His Son.

If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, if you believe that Jesus died for your sins. If you believe that He was risen from the grave. Then you are saved. Confess with your mouth that you're saved.

Romans 10:9-11

That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.

If you have truly accepted salvation, your heart and spirit has been changed. You will feel the cleanliness within your spirit and heart. Now it's your responsibility to read the Word of God, pray, fast and submit yourself to the Word of God. If you can attend worship service at church or at your facility, you should attend to be strengthen spiritually. As you submit yourself to the doctrine of the Bible you will see a change in your character and attributes.

You can't receive salvation and stay the same. That was the reason Jesus died so that you would be free from the bondage of sin. You can't change yourself, He will change you, if you allow Him.

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walk in victory!**