

I'm Supposed to Be Fruitful

John 15:1-4 (NLT)

15 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

One of the most interesting, and often misunderstood aspects of the fruit of the Spirit, is that it's **fruit not fruits**. There is literally one fruit, with many characteristics. One writer said, "It's one fruit with nine flavors." **The presence of all of these characteristics (or flavors) provides evidence that a person is walking in and being led by the Holy Spirit.**

If you read your Bible, you will notice that fruit is talked about all the time. As a matter of fact, fruit is mentioned 181 times. Fruitful is mentioned 35 times. And fruits is mentioned 38 times. God said a lot about fruit. That's because He intended and expects us to be fruitful. If this is the case, we must make sure that we understand what God wants for us and how to accomplish it. With this in mind, let's examine: **I'm Supposed to Be Fruitful.**

Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Genesis 9:1 (NLT)

9 Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth.

Genesis 9:7 (NLT)

7 Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth.”

God is a master investor. He expects a generous return on his investments. His expectation of us is that not only would we produce. He wants us to continue to produce until we become fruitful. The great thing about God is that He would never require us to do something He has not already given us the ability and the tools necessary to accomplish it.

1. Fruitfulness is both a blessing and a command.

Psalm 128:3 (NLT)

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table.

Nothing in the Kingdom of God or in the Earth for that manner can become fruitful without relationship. In the old days, adults used to have the conversation with kids about **“the birds and the bees.”** It was metaphorical story sometimes told to children, in an attempt to explain the mechanics and results of sexual intercourse. Bees carry and deposit pollen into flowers. Flowers are then fertilized and they are able to produce buds. Usually, fruit doesn't show up until after you see buds on the tree. **WE CANNOT BE FRUITFUL BY OURSELVES...WE NEED TO BE GOOD SOIL AND CARRY GOOD SEED TO BE FRUITFUL.**

2. Fruitfulness is the result of relationship.

John 15:5-8 (NLT)

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!

8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

The only thing you and I can make without God is a mess. Jesus said, "Without me you can do nothing. But, if you will stay with me, get to know me, listen and obey me, nothing will be withheld from you." If we are obedient and participate with His plan, God will make us supernaturally fruitful. **BUT WE MUST DEPEND ON, RELY ON AND TRUST IN GOD...**

3. Fruitfulness is impossible without God.

Psalm 107:34-35 (NLT)

34 He turns the fruitful land into salty wastelands, because of the wickedness of those who live there.

35 But he also turns deserts into pools of water, the dry land into springs of water.

Yes, it is the will of God for us to be fruitful. But, as we've taught for a while now, the will of God is not automatic. There is a part that you and I must play. Many people sit at home and wait for God to bless them and make them fruitful. The Bible clearly says, we're already blessed. God is waiting on us to be what He made you, fruitful. **OUR BEHAVIOR WILL EITHER INFLUENCE OUR CROP TO BE ABUNDANT OR CAUSE IT TO WHITHER AWAY...**

4. Fruitfulness and barrenness are greatly influenced by the farmer.

John 15:16 (AMP)

16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.

What no one tells us about coming to God is that every day won't be perfect. Temptations, tests and trials will come to us all. The enemy will always try to show us reasons to be offended and frustrated, in hopes that we will move from where God has planted us. The devil has no power to uproot us. However, the cares of this world and offenses often cause people to uproot themselves. **STAY WHERE GOD PLANTED YOU, IF IT DOESN'T FEEL, LOOK OR EVEN SOUND GOOD RIGHT NOW, STAY WHERE GOD PLANTED YOU.**

5. Fruitfulness is the result of intentionally remaining planted where God intended.

To put it plainly, the fruit of the Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. When we come to Christ, and are born again, the Holy Spirit fills us and He begins to produce fresh fruit in us. He begins to work in us, sanctifying us and making us more like Jesus. Remember: **I'm Supposed to Be Fruitful.**