

Becoming a Bearer of God's Fruit

"Willing To Be Prepared"



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Introduction

In his book *Secrets of the Vine Breaking through to Abundance*, Bruce Wilkinson tells us there are some questions we must ask ourselves before we can become bearers of God's Fruit. What does becoming a bearer of God's Fruit really mean? How do we willingly become bearers of His fruit? And how do we know if we are producing fruit?

Before we can answer these questions we must first learn how to become bearers of God's fruit. Next, we must understand what it means to be bearers of God's fruit, but most of all we must be willing to become bearers of God's fruit, therefore knowing we are producing fruit that is desirable to Him.

We will look at God's word and pray He reveals the answers we need. As we seek the answers to these questions, we must first and foremost look within our selves to see if we are bearing fruit. Are you bearing more fruit or much fruit. Do you know when you are being disciplined or pruned by God?

Let us now together learn what Bruce Wilkinson says are the Secrets of the Vine, and back through to abundance and become bearers of God's Fruit."



A Branch Connected to the Vine

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” John 15:4 (NKJV)

Learning To Become Bearers Of Gods Fruit

“Abide in Me, and I in you, As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, Neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for with out Me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5 (NKJV)

How we learn to become bearers of God’s fruit is by being in God’s will. We learn how to be in God’s will by reading His Word. Not only reading the Word of God, but also understanding what His Word is saying to us. After we read God’s Word with understanding and get a clear view of who we are, and what it is we are to do, we must than start to apply what we have read and learned to our lives.

As we apply what we have learned to our lives, we also learn to walk in the power and the knowledge it takes to start to bear fruit. As we grow spiritually in God’s grace, we as branches start to bud fruit, but it is what happens from here that makes the difference. We as branches need to be connected to the vine, because the vine is where we get all our nourishment from.

Before we go any further we must first get an understanding of what a vineyard is like and how the branches grow, how the vine sustains them and how the vine dresser cares for the vineyard. In *Secrets of the Vine*, Wilkinson explains to us the make up of a grape vine and the different components of it.

The Vine, The Vinedresser and the Branches

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser...you are the branches John 15:1,5

- ***Jesus is the vine*** - For many of us when we think of a vine we think of some kind of trailing limb that usually grows along a trellis. But this is not the case, actually it is the trunk of the plant that grows from the ground. The end of the vine is kind of large and gnarly and this is where the branches grow from. And the branches are the ones that grow in either direction along the trellis.
- ***God the Father the vinedresser*** - The vinedresser is the one who tends the vineyard, sometimes he is the owner, but on some occasions he is a hired hand. What the vinedresser does is to get the plants he is tending to yield the most pounds of grapes possible. Vineyards that are healthy and properly taken care of will give more fruit.
- ***We are the branches*** - In the vineyard the branches are where the vine dresser puts his focus, because the branches are what bears the fruit. The branches are tied to a trellis or propped up with sticks so air can circulate through them and they get the maximum amount of sunshine. With the branches being up, this also allows the vine dresser complete access to all the branches. This way he can cultivate each branch so it will bear as much fruit as possible.

Now that we have a better understanding of where our place is in the vineyard and what function we as branches play we can continue on to see what it means to be a bearer of God's fruit and what fruit is, how much fruit are we bearing, or are we bearing anything at all. And if we are bearing is it more fruit, or much fruit, and are we willing to go through what it takes to bear much fruit.

What Is Fruit?

“And Let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” Titus 3:14 (NKJV)

What is fruit, and what exactly is fruit bearing? This is a question we all need to take a look at. I know for many of us the first thing we might say is bearing fruit is bringing lost souls to the Lord. This may be true but like Wilkinson says there is no reason to restrict Jesus' meaning of fruit to just winning the lost to Christ. (20)

Like most Bible students, if you chose to do a biblical word study on the words *fruit* and *good works* you will find that they are used interchangeably. Take for instance the verse in Titus I used at the beginning of this page, it states that people learn how to maintain good works that they may not be unfruitful.

Galatians 5:22 it says "*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*". By allowing God to nurture in us these Christ like qualities is how we bear inner fruit. So here we see bearing this inner fruit as good works in thought, attitude, or action.

We bear outer fruit when we allow God to work through us and we do everything according to His will and for His glory, and this does include sharing our faith with a lost and dying world. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians "*God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things and all times, having all that you need you will abound in every good work*" (NIV).

Doing God's will is bearing fruit whether it is sweeping a floor, visiting the sick, being a missionary, or what ever you do to glorify God. Fruit bearing is very important in our Christian walk. Our fruit is the only thing that will last when we get to heaven as we glorify God with what we do, our fruit is deposited in our HBA better known as our Heavenly Bank Account. Jesus said "*I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain*" (John 15:16) NKJV

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:10 "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand that we should walk in them*". The greatest thing we can ever do on this earth is bring God glory by bearing fruit and doing the works He has prepared for us to do.

Willing To Be Prepared

Now the question is are we bearing fruit? Are we responding to the nurturing attention of the vine dresser? We must also understand that every branch in the vineyard is different and every branch will yield a different size crop at harvest time. This has to do with how well we each responded to the vine dresser, and if we allowed Him to really care for us regardless of the things we had to go through.

Becoming a fruit bearer is not an easy task. It takes a lot of work for the Father to get us prepared to be fruit bearers. This takes time and effort on His part because He knows we resist the things He does to prepare us. We don't want to give up a lot of things in our lives that we have been hanging on to, or we don't want to go through the pain that will come with being prepared to become bearers of God's fruit.

No Fruit, Fruit More Fruit, Much Fruit?

Pruning and Chastising

There are times in our lives when we as Christians do not walk in what God has called us to do. Some of us are living lives not acceptable to God. Others just outright refuse to do God's will for any number of reasons. This is the time in our lives where we don't bear fruit or do His work.

No Fruit

In John 15: 2 Jesus said "*Every branch in me that does not bear fruit is taken away*". When we refuse to bear fruit, the Father who is the vine dresser will chastise us. He will do whatever is necessary to get us to the point of bearing fruit. This can be a very painful and drastic experience in our lives, but the Father knows what is best for us and will only do what is right to get us where we need to be to bear fruit.

Fruit and More Fruit

There are some of us who do bear fruit, but not as much as we should. Then there are those who bear more fruit, but can still bear much more. This is when the vine dresser starts to prune away things. He starts to remove dead leaves and other limbs and pieces that might prevent the branch from producing more fruit.

Jesus tells us that “*the branch that bears fruit is pruned so it can bear more fruit (John 15:2).*” In the same way God starts to remove things from our lives that prevent us from bearing more fruit in our lives. When the Father starts removing the things in our lives that keep us from bearing fruit we sometimes fight Him because we don’t want to let go. Some of those things can be family members, friends, jobs, positions, material things or a certain life style.

When God starts to remove these things from our lives we don’t want to let go. Sometimes the pruning feels just like chastisement because the pain of chastisement and pruning feels the same. And in this process some of us can’t tell the difference. And since we can’t tell the difference we feel we are being chastised and want to give up. But what we have to do is learn how to discern the difference.

But before we can discern what God is doing in our lives we have to examine ourselves to see if we are living the Christian life, and are not in willful sin, and if we are in sin, pray and ask God’s forgiveness and repent. Next, stay on your face before Him and study His word to find out just what it is He has for you to do. As we grow in God’s grace we will know the difference between being chastised and being pruned. And in that time of being pruned, as painful as it may be, know that the outcome is what the Father is looking for.

Much Fruit

After the vine dresser (the Father), lovingly tends and prunes the branches (us) in the vineyard, the branches (us) began to produce much fruit which brings forth a great harvest, which brings glory to God. So to become bearers of God’s fruit we have to abide in the vine, who is Jesus Christ our Lord and His word must abide in us. John 15:7 (NKJV).

“And Let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” Titus 3:14 (NKJV)

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