

## **BEAR FRUIT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**

“If you abide in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done. In this way my Father is glorified, when you bear much fruit, and thus are my disciples” (John 15:7-8)

D.L. Moody in the past once said, "I have never met a Christian who bears fruit who is not a Bible student." That means according to our guiding verse above, the indication that we are biblical disciples of Christ is if we bear much fruit. In Mark 11:12-14 and Mark 11:20-26 it is recorded, that the Lord Jesus cursed the fig tree that did not bear fruit and gave advice to His disciples regarding the fig tree which had dried up to the roots. Behind the incident of Jesus cursing this unfruitful fig tree, the Lord Jesus used it to teach something to those who believed in Him. On the one hand, the Lord Jesus is not pleased if there are believers who do not bear fruit. On the other hand, He wants believers to bear much fruit throughout the seasons of life. It has to do with our faith. There are several steps of faith so that we can bear much fruit in this life for the glory of God. Notice some of the things that the Lord Jesus said in Mark 11:20-26. The “mountain” in verse 23, describes the obstacles that can hinder us from bearing fruit, this mountain must be removed. Then, the words "indeed" or "amen" in the same verse state that the words spoken by the Lord Jesus can be trusted and will definitely happen. On the basis of this solid faith, which does not waver, we can say to the "mountain of obstacles" to move and be thrown into the sea. Strong (steadfast) faith can move “mountains of obstacles” (verse 23). If the obstacle mountain has been removed into the sea, it means that the obstacle is gone and God has opened a way. Thus, we can confidently believe that we have received what is our petition and prayer to God, namely life that bears fruit. Faith means we believe we have received (verse 24). As believers, we must also obey God's word to forgive others (verse 25). If the heavenly Father has forgiven us, it means that there has been a reconciliation/restoration of the relationship between Him and us. If we forgive others, then we are people who are obedient to God's word and have a heart full of love. So, we become believers who were shaped by God to bear fruit. The Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:22 said, “But if I have to live in this world, it means for me to work to bear fruit.” Our life journey has been designed by God long before He created the world. God the creator and source of life expects to meet us again someday after we walk according to His Word. God gives authority for everyone to live his life with a choice, and in the end everyone must give an account to God the source of that life. That is why if we are in God and His Word is in us, then whatever we ask according to His will we will receive. And the Father in heaven is glorified if we bear much fruit. The fruits of this life is the fruit of every good work (Colossians 1:10); fruit for eternal life (John 4:36); the fruit of righteousness (2 Cor. 9:10); fruit befitting repentance – there is a change of life (Matt. 3:8); and there is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Bearing fruit is God's commandment for each of His disciples, and in this case God wants us to bear much fruit. We can only bear much fruit if we stay focused on God (Psalm 1:1-3), live in harmony and oneness with His Word (John 15:4-5) and if we remain faithful to the end (Rev. 2: 10 b), Amen!

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