

Bearing Fruit

John 15:1-10 Yeshua tells us of the Husbandman, the Vine and the relationship they have with the branch or branches. The Husbandman is the Father with Yeshua being the Vine, leaving us, the believers, as the branches. The Father is the one who does the purging or pruning of the branches. The vine is the one providing water and nutrients to the branch; without the vine no fruit could ever be yielded. That leaves the branches as needed to bear fruit.

The part of the plant that is not mentioned in John 15 is the Root. The root provides stability and nourishment for the plant. If there was no root, there would be no structural support for the vine, no means of conveying nutrients from the soil into the roots hairs for nourishment of food and water; in essence, there would be no vine, thus it must be assumed the term "vine" must incorporate both the main stem of the vine including its life preserving nourishing root. No root, no plant.

Isa. 11:10 ¶ And in that day there shall be **a root of Jesse**, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isa. 53:2a - For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground:

Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root** and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

John 15:1-10 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. **2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. **3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. **5 I** am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **6** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **8** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. **9** As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **10 If** ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

In order to begin the process of bearing fruit, the Husbandman, The Vine and the branch have individual jobs. The beginning job lies with the Father who does the calling. As Eph. 2:10 tells us, we are His workmanship. Workmanship, defined in Strong's # 4161, means something made. Synonyms for this word include handiwork, gift, mastery and artistry. The American Heritage Dictionary defines this word as "The Art", therefore within the realm of probability of considering us a "work of art."

Rom. 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many

brethren. **30** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were **given** unto him of my Father. (**Strong's # 1325 – given**) bring forth, deliver)

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day. (**Strong's # 1670 – draw**) to drag ----- (only time used in the New Testament)

Eph. 2:10 For we are his **workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Eph. 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

*The Father's job is to call those He wants to be conformed into the image of His Son. Before He begins the process of pruning, He takes away (**Strong's # 142, removes or puts away**) the branches not willing or capable of bearing fruit. With the remaining diseased or injured branches, the process of pruning as related in John 15:2b (**Strong's # 2503, purgeth**) is now begun which encourages productive growth leading to good circulation that effectively transports water and nutrients that will be provided by the Vine.*

Heb. 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once **purged** (**Strong's # 2508**) **should have had no more conscience of sins.**

The Son's job provides water and nutrients; without the root and the vine, no fruit could ever result. The branches are utterly dependent upon the vine in order to bear fruit, (John 15:4). Without the vine, utter destruction will occur as vividly described in John 15:6 describing the branches withering, then being gathered and burned up.

*A separate note regarding this verse is found in the KJV, the only version of the Bible I found stating that "**men gather them, and cast them into the fire.**" According to Matt. 13:41-42; 49-50, it is the job of the angels to gather and cast into the fire those that are wicked.*

Matt. 13:41-42 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; {things...: or, scandals} **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matt. 13:49-50 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, **50** And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Christ is the Founder and Perfector of our faith; our spiritual roots are found and finished in the work of Yeshua. He blazed the trail of faith for us by showing us what it means to trust our Heavenly Father with our lives.

Rom. 5:1-2 ¶ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: **2** By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

What is the job, the commandment, the branch must do to successfully complete the process of bearing fruit? Answer: a process never completed in a lifetime!

Rom. 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**

Eph. 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

At baptism according to Rom. 6:3, 4 and Eph. 4:22–24, our old self, our old man, is dead; we are renewed into a new man, in a newness of life. This new man is no longer encased in old sins wrapped around, enclosing him in bondage. He has become free, a new man created in righteousness and holiness.

John 3:3-7 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. **4** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **5** 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. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

As previously stated in Eph. 4:24, the new man has been created in righteousness and holiness. A righteousness that is not derived from our doing because we are sinners, not adequate or powerful enough to produce righteousness on our own. This righteousness belongs to our Lord.

From the Complete Jewish Bible, Rom 5:17-19

Rom 5:17-19 For if, because of the offense of one man, death ruled through that one man; how much more will those receiving the overflowing grace, that is, **the gift of being considered righteous,** rule in life through the one-man Yeshua the Messiah! **(18)** In other words, just as it was through one offense that all people came under condemnation, **so also it is through one righteous act that all people come to be considered righteous.** **(19)** For just as through the disobedience of the one man, many were made sinners, so **also through the obedience of the other man, many will be made righteous.**

Does that mean “once saved, always saved”? NO!!

Upon baptism, with the laying on of hands, the true believers have now received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of both Yah and Yeshua. The Holy Spirit now abides or lives within you. It is the Lord's Spirit speaking and interfacing with your spirit, defined as the spirit of man. (See study on Body, Soul and Spirit).

Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: **15** Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit (Ghost) **16** (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **17** Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit (Ghost)

The Holy Spirit is the power of Yah and Yeshua residing in you. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter sent to us, teaching us and guiding us to receive all truth.

John 14:26 the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

*As the Lord's Spirit is living within you, you are abiding in Him. To abide in our Lord is to walk with Him, turn to Him with all your joys and needs, to live according to His Word, keeping Him as the number **ONE** motivator in your life. No one; not your spouse, your parents, your children, friends, etc. can take precedence over Him. Yeshua states in Matt. 10:37, you are not worthy of Him when you choose to love and care for others more than the love you should have in your heart and soul for Him.*

Matt. 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

We, as branches need to do our part by producing fruit. It is a definite requirement, a commandment as stated in John 15:1-10. The next question that often follows: What does bearing fruit for God entail? Does it require I should become a missionary, traveling the United States, going abroad to Europe, Asia or Africa in order to deliver the Good News to the masses across the globe? If this is the meaning of bearing fruit, I am ashamed to admit, at my advanced age, I have failed miserably.

Bearing fruit for most realistically becomes a spiritual effort focused on fashioning a customized journey that one takes by themselves to seek, find and establish a relationship with our Lord. Even though we fellowship and study with others, the choice of following our Lord, trusting in Him, becomes a decision we must do essentially on our own, therefore, our salvation can never include another.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Matt. 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

As we walk this narrow path reading scripture, we are seeking the Lord, seeking Christ who loved us first and gave His life in order for us to have life. A life consisting of living throughout eternity with Yeshua and the Father. The choices and decisions we need to make on a daily basis are now preceded by prayer, generating trust and faith in our Lord who will hear and guide us, as we have totally and completely surrendered —no longer turning within ourselves to the idol we had sought in the past, Me, Myself and I.

In the seeking, the accepting of the love from Christ and from the Father, in the process of reading, practicing and obeying the teachings of Scripture, we are bearing fruit. We have surrendered our lives, our thoughts, our needs to our Lord. He has become the focal point of our very existence.

The first and most important fruit born in you was the moment you gave your life to Christ, accepting Him as your Lord and Savior. Christ sat with His disciples as He explained to them the meaning of the parable He had just given to the multitude, Matt. 13:18 – 23. Unfortunately, the disciples were “dull” and needed the Lord to explain the parable of the sower.

Matt. 13:18-23 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. **19** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. **20** But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; **21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. {offended: he relapseth, or, falleth into sin} **22** He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. **23** But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Yeshua is giving examples of what happens to the seed, the seed being the Word of God. In the first example, He tells of those hearing and receiving the Word of God, by the wayside, not with understanding but with Satan’s help they promptly turn away. In the second example, those receiving the seed are temporarily filled with joy. The joy is short lived since the hearer is not deeply rooted in faith and with the trials of the world he falls into sin. In the next example, He tells of those receiving seed among the thorns and having the grand delusion of riches, thus becoming unfruitful. Finally, we come to the seed that is sown in good soil with fruit being produced. As good soil cannot bear fruit on its own, independent of the seed, we also cannot bear fruit without the seed, the seed being the Word of God.

Matt. 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Bearing fruit defined describes how you live, the example you portray to others. The world understands how different you are when they see the way you live your life, a life of honesty, modesty, humility, truthfulness, God fearing, God loving. You strive to be in the image of Christ, to serve as He served.

Matt. 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered (served) unto, but to minister (serve), and to give his life a ransom for many.

We are told many times that faith, trust and belief will bring a future reward. The reward we seek is eternity in Yah's Kingdom, sharing it with Yah and Yeshua. We are not expecting rewards as we live out our mortal lives. It appears that Yah being the most benevolent Father, has other plans for those bearing fruit, by choosing to reward us now in our present state of body, through the gifts of the Spirit, and also through the fruit of the Spirit.

1 Cor. 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal **8** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit **9** To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; **10** To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: **11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

The Lord continues to help through His Spirit by now providing Fruit of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Eph. 5:9 For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;

These spiritual fruits of the tree exude a calm and loving effect we so desperately need in contrast to times that are filled with disdain and persecution directed against us. Despite this reality, we continue to thrive on the fruits given us while walking this earth living as chosen children of God.

Proverb to Ponder:

Prov. 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

All Scripture is KJV unless otherwise noted

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