

God's Life Cycle of Fruitfulness

Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

A. We have been chosen that we might bear fruit.

1. Character. (Galatians 5:22-23)

2. Influence. (Leviticus 28:9)

B. Text: Matthew 13:36-38, John 12:24-26.

II. We are "seeds." If you are a child of the king Jesus, you are a seed among other things.

III. Jesus is the farmer.

A. Much good seed is not available to the farmer. (John 12:26)

B. We must be available to serve wherever God wants us.

IV. The field is the world.

A. There are many "worlds" Jesus wants to plant you.

B. There are people who receive the truth and those who are opposed. (John 18:37)

V. Unless the seed dies, it abides alone. If it dies, it bears much fruit.

A. Many believers abide alone because they are unwilling to die.

B. Death means to relinquish control.

C. We have to be open-handed about our possessions, activities and relationships.

D. We have to bring our dreams and possessions under the authority of the Scripture.

E. We are constantly called to surrender new areas of life.

VI. The seed that dies forms deep roots. (Isaiah 37:31, Romans 7:4)

A. Fruit is a result of relationship with Christ.

B. It has to be this way because God is glorified through His own life flowing through the believer.

VII. The seed bears life. (Mark 4:28)

A. The process is just as important as the product. (Luke 15:24)

B. We should not hurry God—let Him develop you at His pace. God has a pace for you.

VIII. One bears fruit in season. (Psalm 1:1-3)

A. Potential hindrances: immaturity, shallowness (Mark 4:6), a divided heart (Hosea 10:1-2), prayerlessness (Psalm 2:8), and being fruit-centered instead of Christ-centered (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

B. Rejoice in the Lord whether you are fruitful or not.

Application questions:

1. How does the seed illustration help us to see that we are not in control of our ministry?

2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

3. What areas of your life may God be calling you to die to yourself? Spend some time in prayer and write your reflections below.
