

# **Fruitfulness**

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## I. Introduction.

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

B. Jesus said that we were chosen to bear fruit. (John 15)

1. Fruitfulness means character. (Galatians 5:22-23)

2. Fruitfulness also means influence in the lives of others. (Proverbs 11:30)

C. Jesus spent time with the Twelve to train them.

## II. There are steps in the divine life cycle.

A. The seed—the children of the kingdom. God sees us as a seed because the Spirit of life has brought life to us. (Matthew 13)

B. The farmer.

1. Jesus is the farmer who plants the seed.

2. The sower knows best where to plant the seed.

3. The seed does not know where best to be planted.

a. Seeds do not have rights.

b. We must be available to God.

C. The field is the world.

D. The seed must die in order to bear fruit. (John 12:24)

1. The seed does have an option to die here or abide alone.

2. The seed that dies denies itself. (Luke 9:23)

3. To die means to relinquish control of life. (I Corinthians 14, Ecclesiastes 8:8)

4. Life is the sum total of all one's relationships, activities, and possessions.

5. We must be open-handed with all that we have.

E. Roots. (Isaiah 37:32)

1. Fruit is the result of a relationship.
2. The root system talks about the inner life.
3. We have to make time to develop the inner life.

F. Life. (Mark 4:28)

G. Fruitfulness. (Psalm 1:1-3, Jeremiah 17:7-8)

H. Fruit must come through other fruit. (Genesis 1:29)

1. At some point, the disciple is going to have to die.
2. We have to be careful not to play junior Holy Spirit.

**Application questions:**

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

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2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

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3. What does it look like to establish roots in the spiritual life? How can you grow in this area?

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