

# **Fruitfulness**

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## I. Introduction.

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

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

2. Influence.

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.

IV. The field is the world.

A. The seed does not choose where it gets to go.

B. The farmer decides where the seed will go.

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

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

A. The believer who hates his life will bear fruit.

B. Death means to relinquish control. (I Corinthians 14:32, Ecclesiastes 8:8)

1. One’s life is the sum total of all his or her activities, relationships and possessions. (Luke 14:25-26, Ephesians 5)

2. We must esteem our life as nothing in comparison to our love for Christ.

3. If we do not relinquish our life, we will abide alone.

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

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

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

VIII. One bears fruit in season. (Psalm 1)

A. It is a mistake to compare fruit with other Christians because everyone is in different seasons.

B. The fruit of influence will come in its time.

IX. Multiplication. (Genesis 1:29)

A. We have to be careful not to play junior Holy Spirit.

B. When the time comes to die, do not stand in God's way.

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

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