

# **Fruitfulness**

*Skip Gray*

I. Introduction. 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. Fruitfulness means...

A. Character.

B. Influence. (Proverbs 11:30)

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

1. One’s life is the sum total of all his or her activities, relationships and possessions.

2. We must esteem our life as nothing in comparison to our love for Christ. (Luke 14:25-26, Ephesians 5, I Corinthians 14:32, Ecclesiastes 8:8)

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

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

A. Fruit is a result of relationship with Christ.

B. God may be calling you to spend more time in prayer to develop more quality roots.

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)

**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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