

Employing God's Gifts Series

Chapter 12: Cultivating Three Types of Biblical Fruit

I. Introductory Verses (Four Series Goals: Mutual Service, Clear Thinking, Unity & Growth in Usage)

(1 Peter 4:11) As each one has received a gift, employ it in servicing one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (NASB)

II. Introductory Verses for Chapter 12: (See also Genesis 1:22; 28-29; 9:1, 7; 17:6; 28:3; 35:11; Etc.)

(Genesis 1:11-12) And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (ESV) (Every seed brings forth its own kind.)

(Matthew 3:10) ¹⁰The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (NASB) (Foreshadows Matt. 21:19, 43 Below) (See also Luke 13:6-9)

(Matthew 7:15-20) ¹⁵"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (ESV) (Also Matt. 12:33; 21:19)

(Matthew 21:19, 43) ¹⁹And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. ... ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

(John 12:24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (NASB)

(John 15:1-6, 8, 16a) "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ... ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, (ESV)

(Galatians 5:22-23a) ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; (See Verses 19-21 for deeds (fruit) of the flesh)

III. Employing God's Gifts Series: 12 Chapter Titles

1. Chapter 1: Getting Properly Oriented: Understanding & Employing Gifts & Fruits to Serve Each Other
2. Chapter 2: Biblical "Gift" Words / 4 Gift Classifications & 3 Church Gifts Categories – Part A
3. Chapter 3: Biblical "Gift" Words / 4 Gift Classifications & 3 Church Gifts Categories – Part B
4. Chapter 4: Seven Gifts of Motivation or Temperament – Part A (1 Corinthians 12:6) (Romans 12:3-8)
5. Chapter 5: Seven Gifts of Motivation or Temperament – Part B (1 Corinthians 12:6) (Romans 12:3-8)
6. Chapter 6: Three New Testament Offices: Terms and Functions (Matthew 16:18)
7. Chapter 7: Seven Gifts of Service – Part A (1 Corinthians 12:5) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28)
8. Chapter 8: Seven Gifts of Service – Part B (1 Corinthians 12:5) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Corinthians 12:28)
9. Chapter 9: Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit Defined & Examined - (1 Corinthians 12: 4, 7-11; 14:1ff)
10. Chapter 10: Getting Started in Spiritual Gifts at Meetings - (1 Corinthians 12: 14:1ff)
11. Chapter 11: Employing Spiritual Gifts in Proclaiming the King (Mark 16: 20) (Acts 4:29-31; 33)
12. Chapter 12: Cultivating Three Types of Biblical Fruit – Every Seed Brings Forth Its Own Kind / Soil

IV. Identifying Three Types of Biblical Fruit – Individual & Corporate

A. The Fruit of God’s Character: The Life of the Triune God (See Matthew 5:48; Galatians 5:22-23; Etc.) (Luke 6:43-45) For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. (James 3:17-18) ⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

B. The Fruit of Good Deeds – (see Proverbs 12:14; 27:18) (Galatians 6:9-10) ⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰ So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

C. The Fruit of Reproduction: Bearing Fruit; New Birth; Multiplying (See John 15:8, 16 Previous Page.) (Psalm 127: 3) Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. (Proverbs 11:30) The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls. (Matthew 23:15) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. (Discuss 1 Corinthians 11:1; Hebrews 13:7) (Every seed brings forth its own kind.)

V. Five Ingredients to Cultivating All Three Types of Fruit –

A. Start Grace Based - Part of Conversion & Sanctification is to Face or Realize Our Depravity (Matthew 5:3) “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Romans 5:20) (Romans 7:18a) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; (Cf. Peter in Luke 5) (Hebrews 4:15-16) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NKJV) (1 Peter 5: 5-7) GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. (See also James 4:6-8)

B. Sow the Right Seed & Cultivate the Soil - Listen / Spiritual Disciplines / Long Term Development (Joshua) (Galatians 6:7-8) ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (See Mary & Martha Luke 10:38-42) (See Matthew 13: 1-23) (Jer. 6:19) (Mark 4:24) And He was saying to them, “Take care what you listen to. (Cf. Luke 8:18) (Psalm 1:1-3) How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season; And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

C. Embrace Crosses, Pruning & Testing: Long Term (Generational) Faith / Vision - Death Proceeds Life (2 Corinthians 4:11-12) For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you. (Isaiah 27:6) In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, And they will fill the whole world with fruit. (See Isaiah 37:31) (Tested by Promotion & Success) (See John 12:24 Previous Page)

D. Abide / Love God Intimately (See John 15:1-6 Above) (2 Corinthians 11:3) (Song of Solomon 2:3) (Acts 4:13) Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

E. All Three Delivery Systems of Grace – Where Are You / We Lacking?

VI. Fruit: A Comprehensive Biblical Theme – Find It In All Sections of Scripture – Individually & Corporately