

## **ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE**

*“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...”* **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**  
(NKJV)



### ***This Week’s Thought – November 12, 2017***

---

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:5 (NIV)

---

‘Bearing much fruit’ is the ongoing goal of a disciple of Christ, as this glorifies God and accomplishes His purposes. Fruit-bearing glorifies God, because He is the source of life for the fruit. No fruit can be produced without God. The branch is intrinsically dependent on the vine.

Therefore, we as followers of Christ cannot take credit for the fruit because the fruit comes from Jesus. He is the manufacturer of fruit and we are the distributors. The fruit remains healthy and sweet, as the Father prunes back the unproductive branches. We do not always invite pruning, as it is painful and disfiguring in the beginning; but over time, submission to painful pruning produces beautiful and long-lasting fruit. Trust the Heavenly Father with the pruning process, and you will be much better off.

So, what is the nature of this fruit He is creating and nurturing through us? It is the fruit of character and holiness. As we abide in Christ, we become more like Christ. This is a natural result of remaining in Him. **We become like the ones we hang out with the most.** We start to love more unconditionally because God is love. We experience a fullness of joy because the joy of the Lord becomes our strength. A holy contentment flushes our countenance because the peace of Christ reigns over our hearts. An unselfish servant-spirit fills our heart because Jesus set the ultimate example of ‘servanthood’.

Fruit-bearing is character-driven on behalf of people around us for the glory of God. Character is a conduit for the Holy Spirit to draw others to Himself. You are saved for more than goodness. You are saved to bridge others to God. Much fruit that remains is the result of God working through a humble, obedient, and submitted life for God’s glory.

November 12, 2017

Therefore, it is imperative to remain in Christ for maximum fruit-bearing. This is the position from which God leverages His greatest works. It is from here that much fruit is produced, and where the results remain with eternal consequences. You remain in Christ by faith. It all comes back to trust in Him. You take Him at His Word. You believe His Word. You obey His Word. Remaining in Christ is not an arduous task. It will be painful at times, but not burdensome. Early on, allow God to sever the small green twigs of sin that bud on the branch of your life. This is much better than waiting for His massive pruning. Bad branches distract and hold back fruit-bearing.

You also remain in Him as you live in community with other believers. They become God’s encouragers and pruning shears as well. Learning, growing, and applying God’s truth automatically default to remaining in Him. Seek out truth religiously and relentlessly. Be a model of remaining so others will be inspired to do the same. Branches do not thrive in isolation, but in the orchards of evangelism and discipleship. As a result, we remain in Christ. Then the fruits of character and souls are harvested on an eternal scale, all for the glory of the great gardener, God.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-32)*

**Application:** How can I better abide in Christ, so He can do a deeper work of grace in my heart?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Lord Jesus, You have commanded me and given me grace to love others as You loved me. As I do this, I will abide in You, and You in me. Otherwise I cannot bear fruit. Apart from You I can do nothing. You have made a way for me. You have poured out Your love in my heart by the Holy Spirit, and I can remain in Your love. I thank You that through You I can bear much fruit. Work in me to will and to do Your will, which is to walk in love and obey Your Word, so that I can abide in Your love and be able to love my family, my friends and even my enemies as Your friend. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

*“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)*

Yours in Christ, Pastor King