

O C T O B E R 1 8 2 0 2 0



This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
John 15:8 (New International Version)

Thought for today...

Fruitful. Fruitfulness. One dictionary definition of these words is given as follows: *Adjective~Productive or conducive to producing in abundance. Yielding positive results. Successful.*

The scripture verse in John 15:8 shown above indicates that as followers of Christ, we should intentionally aim to be fruitful. An earlier verse in the same chapter informs us of what is required in order to be fruitful. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." John 15:4 (New King James Version).



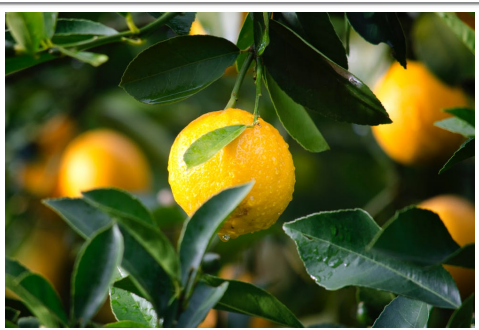
I have an apple tree in my garden, which has - in some years - been laden down with apples that are absolutely HUGE! At other times, by comparison, the apples have been small and less pleasing to the eye. Interestingly, the size of the apple has not determined its tastiness or usefulness, and both huge and small ones have been used in a number of my recipes. The fact that the tree is not yielding insect infected, inedible fruit says something about the tree...

As followers of Christ, it is imperative that we produce fruit, but not just fruit - **good** fruit, and that in abundance! Others will know us by the fruit that we produce; do others see the fruit of the Spirit in us?

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

As we are reminded in John 15:8 that our fruitfulness shows us to be His disciples, Jesus also warned that there are those whose fruit shows otherwise: **"You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."** Matthew 7:16-20 (NLT).

We may have seasons in our lives where we do not produce a bumper crop. We may also feel at times that our life experiences have left us unable to bear fruit. John 15:2 tells us this: **“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit].”** John 15:2 (AMP)



I hope that the following words, spoken by Jesus will encourage you: **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."** John 15:16 (NIV).