

Give God ...



What Can You Lend?

Author Unknown

Peter lent a boat,
To save Jesus from the press;
Martha lent her home
With genuine kindness.

One man lent a colt,
Another lent a room;
Some threw down their clothes,
And Joseph lent a tomb.

*Simon lent his strength
The cruel cross to bear;
Mary spice brought,
His body to prepare.*

*What have I to lend?
No boat! No house! No lands!
Yet, Lord, I gladly lend
The work of heart and hands.*

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Producing Any Fruit?

Bill Brinkworth

Jesus likens our relationship to God and Him as to grape vines. The vines are planted by and watered by the Father (John 15:1, I Cor. 3:9). The vines represent Jesus and are cared for by Him (John 15:1). If we are saved, and spiritually born into God's family, we are the branches on the vine.

The watchful eye of the Owner of the vineyard sees what, and if, we produce anything that He feels is considered as good "fruit". The good "fruit" is what is done to bring honor and glory to God, and what helps others in coming to know God and serve Him better.

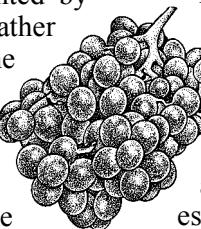
John 15 tells more about what Jesus said about "fruit":

It is impossible to have any spiritual fruit unless one is truly saved and in the "body of Christ" (vs. 2, 4).

God takes away branches that do not produce any "fruit" (vs. 2), although they do not lose their salvation.

So many are professors of Christ and saved, but not producers of what God requires of them. Their power and help is taken away, because of their refusal to do what they are commanded. This is why so many that have been saved, but do nothing for God, have no answered prayer, no changes in their lives, and have no leadership from God.

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Godly Fruit

With godly guidance and spiritually correct decisions, one's life can produce good, spiritual consequences, as defined in Galatians:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

Galatians 5:22-26

Producing Any Fruit?

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- ❖ God prunes ("purgeth", vs. 2) those that are producing some Christian "fruits". As a husbandman trims the branches of his fruit trees to get them to produce more branches and more fruit, so does God allow testing and tribulation to produce more godly "fruits" in our lives.
- ❖ If a Christian does what the Scriptures commands, he will have answered prayer (vs. 7).
- ❖ God is honored and gets the glory when we produce "fruit". Many look at a person and know what he was before he was saved, and see how the Lord has changed his life, and know that it could only have been done by God.

Many claim to be Christians and even try to do produce godly fruit. They do not fool the Father, and their hypocrisy and lack of real Christianity do not even fool the ungodly (vs. 6). They are like wild grapes that have little fruit, and what they do produce is very small, sour, and certainly can be distinguished from a good, cultivated fruit.

"Examine your fruit. The Husbandman is also a fruit inspector. What does Jesus think about your "fruit"?

*Sow little; produce little. Sow much; produce much
for the glory of God."*

Fruits of the Flesh

What we do, or what our actions produce is often viewed as our "fruit". Here is some "fruit" which the Bible says is produced from behavior that God's leadership is not involved in:

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Galatians 5:19-21

What One Tract Did

W. Smith

While Dr. Coke was journeying in America, he once attempted to ford a river. His horse lost its foothold, and he was carried down the stream. The doctor narrowly escaped drowning by clinging to a branch which overhung the river side. A neighboring lady gave him help when in his distress and even sent someone to retrieve his horse and other kindnesses. Just before he left her house, he gave her a tract about salvation.

For five years the doctor

toiled on in the cause of Christ in England and in America. Whether his tract had been destroyed, or had pierced a human heart, he did not know. One day, at a mission's conference, a young man approached him and requested a couple minutes of the doctor's time.

"Do you remember, sir, being nearly drowned in the river some five years ago?"

"I remember it quite well," replied the doctor.

"Do you remember the widow lady at whose house you stayed at after escaping from the river?"

"I do; and shall never forget the kindness she showed me."

"And do you also remember giving her a tract when you bade her farewell?"

"I do not; but it is very possible I did so."

"Yes, sir, you did leave a tract. That lady read it, and was converted. She lent it to her neighbors, and many of them were saved also. Several of her children were also saved; a Bible society was formed, which flourishes to this day."

The statement moved the doctor to tears. The young man continued, "I have not quite told you all. I am her son. That tract led me to Christ. Now, sir, I am on my way to the mission field to reach others."

We never know what fruits we

can produce, when we do the Master's work.

He Thought He Lost It

W. Smith

A young boy once shot an arrow in the air. Its flight was so high, that soon he lost sight of it, and he failed to find where it had landed. He spent a long time looking for the arrow in the meadow, but in vain.

Thirty years passed by. The boy was now a man, and visited the haunts of his boyhood. Walking around the meadow, he gazed at an oak that frequently sheltered him from the sunrays in his younger days. He paused under the old tree and found a curious feather protruding from a hollow in the tree. As he drew out the "feather", he realized it was the arrow that he thought he had lost many years previously.

This is often true of the efforts of God's children. They speak in the ears of sinners; they give a tract; they utter an exhortation, or tell someone about spiritual things. They often do not get to see where the "arrow" of their efforts lands. It is impossible for them to track it, and they too often deem it lost.

Often it is not lost. It has done its work. Either in future years or in eternity, that effort, like the long lost arrow, shall come back to its owner, bringing with it a blessing, and even the reward of a duty faithfully performed.

**"Better to wear out
than to rust out."**

— Cumberland