

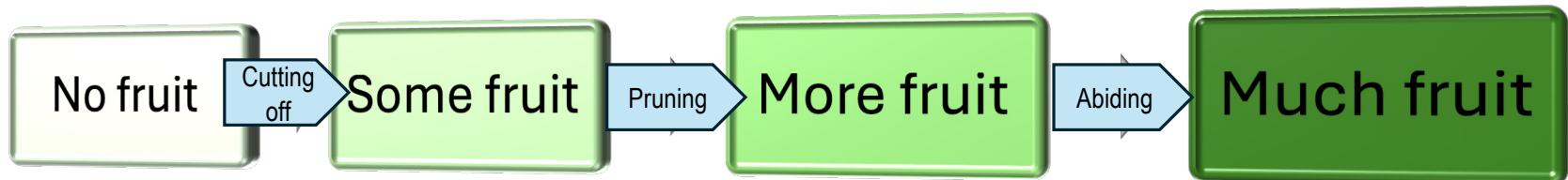


ABIDE IN JESUS (3)

Jan. 18, 2026; Shalom Ministries International

Bear Much Fruit

- SMI 2026 Key Verse
 - I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing (John 15:5).
- What is fruit? (*καρπός, karpos*):
 - You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours (Psalm 128:2).
 - Being the visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly;
 - Fruit is your unique visible outworking of the life that Christ has put in you. It is a direct result of the power of God working in your life and through the circumstances.
- Stages of bearing fruit



Lesson Learned about Fruit from the Bible

- Christians are called to bear fruit
 - Our lives should demonstrate spiritual growth and good works, primarily through remaining connected to Jesus (the vine).
- The Bible contrasts good fruit with bad fruit
 - Good fruit (divine character): Living a godly life.
 - Bad fruit (human dysfunction): Actions stemming from selfishness, immorality, greed, anger.
- Reasons why we do not bear good fruit
 - **Laziness:** You wicked, lazy servant...(Matthew 25:26).
 - **Pride:** I am not like other people...I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get (Luke 8:11).
 - **Distraction:** The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful (Matthew 13:22).
 - **Living in sin:** The acts of the flesh are sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions (Galatians 5:19-20).

Facts about Fruit



- Fruit is visible
 - The fruit (actions, changes, people saved) is the visible result of an inner connection to Christ.
- Fruit is an outworking
 - Can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water? (James 3:12).
 - Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit (Matthew 12:33).
 - Fruit comes from what's on the inside of us. It grows organically and naturally from the inside out. It is not from the circumstances, but it is an outgrowth of what's already inside of us.
 - Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine (Daniel 1:8).
 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

- **Fruit is inevitable**

- Everyone is constantly producing fruit—either good or bad.
- Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit...by their fruit you will recognize them (Matthew 7:17-20).
- A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart (Luke 6:45).
- The question is, “Are you bearing the kind of fruit that God wants you to bear?”

- **Fruit is unique**

- Each one has been given a unique purpose. We bear different spiritual gifts that lead us to bear spiritual fruit in a variety of God-orchestrated ways.
- Let's be cautious of comparison, projection, rejection & deception.
- There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).



Kinds of Fruit in the Bible

1. Fruit of Repentance

- Produce **fruit** in keeping with repentance (Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8).
- The visible, positive changes in a person's actions, attitudes, and lifestyle that demonstrate a genuine turning away from sin and towards God.
- A conscious decision to turn 180 degrees away from that behavior, such as returning stolen items, speaking the truth, or working diligently.
- **You cannot bear fruit without a mindset shift (the root/repentance).**
 - Repentance isn't just words or feelings but a true transformation, showing inner change through outward behavior.
 - When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his repentance wasn't just a prayer. The fruit was his promise to give half his possessions to the poor and pay back four times what he cheated.
 - Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount" (Luke 19:8).



2. Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- The **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).
- It is the ultimate outcome of a person who is spiritually and relationally healthy.
- Fruit of Repentance (The Correction: Fixing the broken parts of the system) vs. Fruit of the Spirit (The Character: The energy that flows through the system).
- It is the evidence of a transformed life in Christ
 - Love (Selfless, unconditional care for others);
 - Joy (Not based on circumstances, but on God's presence);
 - Peace (Calmness, even amid trouble, trusting in God);
 - Patiance (Enduring hardship and difficult people with grace);
 - Kindness (Generous treatment of others);
 - Goodness (Doing what is right and honorable to God);
 - Faithfulness (Commitment to God and His truth);
 - Gentleness (Humility, tenderness, and empathy in interactions);
 - Self-control (Discipline over impulses and desires).





3. Fruit of Good Works/Deeds

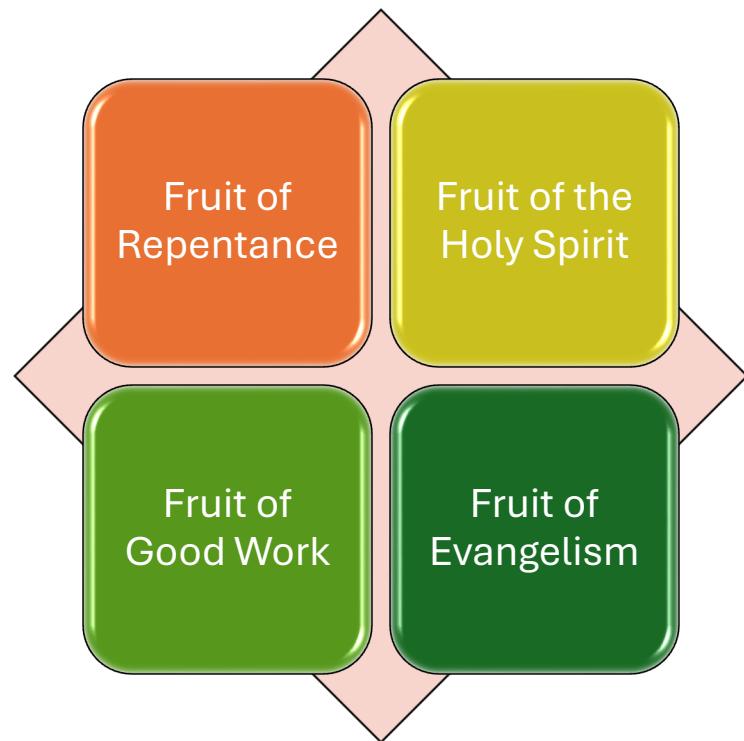
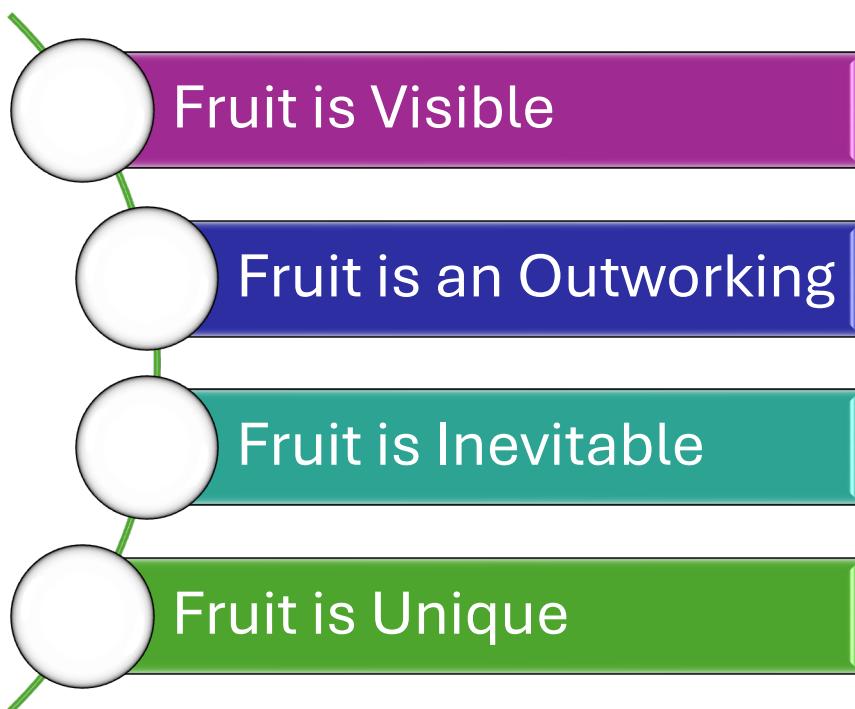
- You may live a life worthy of the Lord in every way: bearing fruit in every **good work...** (Colossians 1:10).
- Let our people learn to maintain **good works**, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful (Titus 3:14).
- Good work (The tangible actions, deeds, and behaviors)
 - Serving the needy, caring for widows and orphans, showing compassion, and helping others in tangible ways.
 - Obeying God's commands, letting your light shine, and bearing witness to Christ.
 - Being a good employee (in your vocation) by doing your tasks with integrity, as part of God's work.
 - Defending the oppressed and upholding justice (To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God, Micah 6:8).



4. Fruit of Evangelism

- I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see **spiritual fruit**, just as I have seen among other Gentiles (Romans 1:13, NLT).
- The household of Stephanas, that it is the **firstfruits** of Achaia (1 Corinthians 16:15, NKJV).
- The harvesters are paid good wages, and the **fruit** they harvest is people brought to eternal life (John 4:36).
- Why this matters?
 - Bearing fruit involves reaping a harvest among those who do not know Jesus through both evangelism and the pursuit of spiritual growth.
 - It is not just about a one-time conversion, but seeing new believers grow in their faith so they can lead others to Christ (disciples making disciples).
 - It is the direct result of obedience to Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations.
 - Ultimately, the fruit of evangelism is about people entering into eternal life.

Characteristics and Kinds of Fruit



How to Check If You are Bearing Fruit?



Are you living like Jesus, showing love, serving others, and growing in godliness?



Are you regularly spending time with God in prayer and Bible study?



Is there evidence of a transformed heart and actions that point to God?



Are you bringing hope and pointing others to Christ?