

## **Fruit-Bearing**

By this My Father is glorified, that you  
Bear much fruit. - John 15:8

*Read: John 15:1-8*

The Lord Jesus is looking for more than the “leaves” of outward profession in the lives of His followers. He wants them to mature and bear spiritual fruit. Samuel Rutherford aptly declared, “God is no idle Husbandman. He purposeth a crop!” What he meant was that the Father, like a good farmer, will do what is necessary to make us fruit-bearers. When our lives yield abundantly, He is glorified, and others are blessed.

Orchard experts say occasionally a fruit tree will give all its energy to growing wood and leaves but little or no energy to bearing fruit. To correct this condition, the farmer takes an ax and makes a deep wound in its trunk close to the ground. That severe procedure almost always produces a change. The next year the tree gives an excellent yield. It could be called “the fruit of suffering.”

Oftentimes God uses a trial as an ax, or suffering as a pruning knife, so that we may stop channeling all our energies into the pursuit of temporal things.

Sorrow, tribulation, ill health, and disappointment have a way of stimulating spiritual growth and fruitfulness. Our attention is then redirected toward eternal things, and we produce the fruits of righteousness that glorify His name.  
- H.G.B.

*Oft we shrink from the purging and pruning,  
Forgetting the Husbandman knows  
That the deeper the cutting and paring,  
The richer the cluster that grows. - Anonymous*

Taken from ***Our Daily Bread***

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