

Secrets of the Abundant Life-1

The Secret of Living is Bearing Fruit

TEXT: John 10:10; John 15:8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. SUPPOSE YOU WERE OFFERED GREATEST **JOY**, THE FULLEST MEASURE OF **BLESSEDNESS**, **ASSURANCE** OF ETERNAL LIFE, AND **PEACE OF MIND**. **WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED?**
- B. JESUS OFFERS SUCH A LIFE(**John 10:10**).
- C. JESUS OFFERS ABUNDANCE THROUGH HIS TEACHINGS(**John 15:11**).
- D. ONE SURE AVENUE TO THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS IN FRUIT BEARING.

I. DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRUIT WE ARE TO BEAR.

- A. **WINNING SOULS** TO CHRIST AND HELPING THEM GROW.
 - 1. Paul speaks of this kind of "fruit" (**Rom. 1:13**).
 - 2. A branch bearing fruit produces a product identical to itself(**Acts 26:29**).
 - 3. Therefore, one way a disciple bears fruit is by producing another disciple! (**Matt. 28:19; 2 Tim. 2:2**).
- B. **SHARING** WITH THOSE IN NEED.
 - 1. Paul speaks of contributing to the poor as a "fruit"(**Rom. 15:25-28**).
 - 2. In His own way, Jesus certainly did this(**2 Cor. 8:9**).
 - 3. If the "Vine" did this, His "branches" to do the same(**1 John 3:16-18**).
- C. DEVELOPING **CHRIST-LIKE** CHARACTER..
 - 1. The "fruit" of the Spirit is the development of certain graces(**Gal. 5:22-23**).
 - 2. Certain qualities of character befit the Divine Nature(**2 Pet. 1:4-8**).
 - 3. "renewed...according to the image of Him who created him"(**Col. 3:9-10**).
- D. **PRAISING** GOD AND GIVING **THANKS**.
 - 1. Hebrews describes such activities as a sort of "fruit"(**Heb. 13:15**).
 - 2. Again, the "Vine" was known for such behavior(**Luke 10:21; John 11:41**).

II. HOW BEARING FRUIT MAKES FOR AN ABUNDANT LIFE.

- A. THERE IS GREAT "**JOY**" FOR THOSE WHO **WIN SOULS**.
 - 1. John says that there is "no greater joy"(**3 John 3-4**).
 - 2. Paul's converts at Thessalonica were his "pride and joy"(**1 Thess. 2:19-20**).
 - 3. The greatest work(**James 5:19-20**).
- B. THERE IS GREAT "**HAPPINESS**" FOR THOSE WHO **SHARE**.
 - 1. They learn by experience the truthfulness of Jesus' teachings(**Acts 20:35**).
 - 2. Influence of doing good(**Matt. 5:16**).
 - 3. The Lord's perspective(**Matt. 25:34-40**).
 - 4. The Lord's promise(**Matt. 10:42; Luke 6:38**).
- C. GREAT "**ASSURANCE**" FOR THOSE OF A CHRIST-LIKE **CHARACTER**.
 - 1. "The fruit of the Spirit" frees from condemnation (**Gal. 5:22-23**).
 - 2. Result of sharing in the Divine Character(**2 Pet. 1:8-11**).
- D. THERE IS GREAT "**PEACE**" FOR THOSE GIVEN TO **THANKSGIVING**.
 - 1. Where is **Peace of Mind**?(**Phil. 4:6-7**).
 - 2. There is peace in trusting Jehovah(**Psa. 4:8; Psa. 119:165**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. A LIFE FILLED WITH JOY, HAPPINESS, ASSURANCE AND PEACE IS SURELY AN ABUNDANT LIFE.
- B. THE SECRET OF ABUNDANT LIVING IS BEARING FRUIT.
- C. WE CAN ONLY BEAR FRUIT IN JESUS(**John 15:4-5**).

*"In peace will I both lay me down and sleep; for thou, Jehovah, alone makest me dwell in safety"(**Psa. 4:8**).*

*"Great peace have they that love thy law; and they have no occasion of stumbling"(**Psa. 119:165**)*