

Fruitful Living Part 3 The Purpose of the F.R.U.I.T.

The fruit of the Spirit isn't for our own spiritual decoration. It's meant to be shared with a hungry world. Abiding in Jesus has a purpose: sending us out.

John 15:16 (NLT) *You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.*

F – Fed to Others (It Meets a Need)

The fruit of the Spirit is God's provision to meet the world's hunger.

Galatians 6:2 (NLT) *Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) *Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NLT) *Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.*

When Joseph stored grain in Egypt (Genesis 41), it wasn't for decoration—it was food for nations in famine. In the same way, your patience feeds an impatient world, your peace nourishes an anxious friend, and your kindness is a meal for a lonely stranger.

Ask Yourself: Who in my life is hungry for the specific fruit God is growing in me?

R – Reproduces Through Seeds (It Multiplies)

Good fruit always contains seeds. When we share our lives, we're planting seeds for an eternal harvest.

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT) *Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*

Matthew 13:23 (NLT) *The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!*

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NLT) *I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷ It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.*

Timothy's faith was a seed planted by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5). Paul watered that seed, and Timothy grew into a mighty leader of the church. Your faithfulness in trials or joy in sorrow plants seeds in others that God will grow.

Ask Yourself: What seeds is my life planting in others?

U – Ultimate Purpose is to Glorify God (It Points to the Farmer)

When you taste delicious fruit, you don't praise the apple—you praise the farmer. Our fruit points back to God.

Matthew 5:16 (NLT) *In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

John 15:8 (NLT) *When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.*

Daniel was delivered from the lion's den, the king issued a decree that everyone should worship the God of Daniel (Daniel 6:25-27). Fruitful lives always point back to the Farmer—our Heavenly Father.

Ask Yourself: Does the way I live make people want to know my God?

I – Intended for the World (It's For Sending)

Fruit isn't grown for a private orchard—it's grown to feed the nations. Abiding in Christ empowers us to be sent into the world.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT) *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

Acts 1:8 (NLT) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Romans 10:14 (NLT) *But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?*

The disciples were filled with the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2) and immediately preached in many languages to the nations gathered in Jerusalem. Fruit is meant for the world—it's not to rot on our branches.

T – Taste and See (Our Call to Action)

The invitation is not just to admire the fruit, but to taste it.

Psalms 34:8 (NLT) *Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!*

Philippians 2:15 (NLT) *So that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.*

Colossians 4:5-6 (NLT) *Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.*

When Jesus fed the 5,000 (John 6), the people tasted bread and fish, but it pointed them to the Bread of Life Himself. Our lives should be an invitation for people to “taste” Christ through our love, joy, and peace.

Call to Action: Go and be love for the unlovable, joy for the hopeless, and peace for the anxious.

This week, don't just have fruit. Be F.R.U.I.T.

Be Fed to those who are hungry.

Let your life Reproduce seeds of the Gospel.

Keep the Ultimate purpose of glorifying God in mind.

Remember it's Intended for the world, not just you.

Go and let others Taste and see God's goodness through you.

Numbers 6:24-26 (NLT) *May the Lord bless you and protect you. ²⁵ May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. ²⁶ May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.*