**"THE FRUITS OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE"**

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

 **The Secret Of Living An Abundant Life Is Bearing Fruit**

A Question posed by a preacher……

1. Suppose I could offer you a life that is guaranteed to give you...

 a. A **"joy"** that is greater than any other Joy you have ever experienced.

 b. A **"blessedness"** that is happiness to its fullest measure.

 c. An **"assurance"** of entering the everlasting kingdom of our Lord.

 d. A **"peace"** that surpasses any and all understanding.

 -- Would you be interested?

The Answer he got back was the following….a resounding **YES, Show me !!!**

Then he went on to say the following….

2. Of course, I myself cannot offer such a life; but I know who can His name is Jesus and he can and does!

 As He stated in [**Jn 10:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2010.10)... 10The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

 **"...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it**

 **more abundantly."**

3. Jesus offers this **"abundant life"** not only by His sacrificial death

 on the cross, but also by His teachings recorded by His apostles;

 notice [**Jn 15:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2015.11)...

 **"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you,**

 **and that your joy may be full."**

4. So then we can say that through His teachings, we can learn the

**The Fruits Of The Abundant Life"**...Actually they are not “secrets” at all.

 a. Many are found in this very chapter (**Jn 15**)

 b. Where Jesus pictures Himself as the VINE and His disciples as the

 BRANCHES - cf. [**Jn 15:1-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2015.1-5)

5. You see, As "branches" we are to bear "fruit", so this leads us to the first of several **"Fruits Of The Abundant Life"**...

 **"The Secret Of Living this marvelous life Is….**

**“Bearing Fruit" but not just living out the fruits of the Spirit…there are other fruits that many don’t practice because they lack knowledge.**

[So in order for us to appreciate how this is true, we need to consider...]

**I. The 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" in

[**Ro 1:13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%201.13)13Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

 With this in mind…we can safely say that ….

 2. One of the characteristics of a branch bearing fruit is that it

 produces a product identical to itself. Can we say amen!

 3. Therefore, one way a disciple bears fruit is by producing

 another disciple! It is a process of duplication.

 **B. SHARING WITH THOSE IN NEED...**

 1. Paul speaks of contributing to the poor as a "fruit" in

**Ro 15:25-28….** 25But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.26For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.27It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.28When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

 2. In His own way, Jesus certainly did this.

[**2Co 8:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%208.9)9For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

 3. So if the "Vine" did this, we should expect His "branches" to

 do the same.

[**1Jn 3:16-18**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%203.16-18)16Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.17But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?18My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

 **C. DEVELOPING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER...**

 1. Notice that the "fruit" of the Spirit is the development of

 certain graces –

[**Ga 5:22-23**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%205.22-23)22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

 2. One who abounds in such qualities is growing in the "knowledge

 of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

but there is more…

[**2Pe 1:5-8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%201.5-8)5And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;7And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.8For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 3. When a Christian puts these things in operation in his or her life

 Indeed, he or she is being "renewed...according to the image of Him

 who created him". Beloved we are to image Christ therefore when we look at ourselves in the mirror we see an image and the image is a replica of who you are, but if you look closer we are to see the image of Christ in us the hope of Glory!!! The image of Christ must be seen through us by others!!!

[**Col 3:9-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.9-11)9Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;10And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:11Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Here is another fruit we need to bear…which is of utmost importance….. but why call it a fruit?

 **D. PRAISING GOD AND GIVING THANKS...**

 1. Hebrews describes such activities as a sort of

 "fruit".

[**He 13:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%2013.15)15By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

 2. Again, the "True Vine" was known for such behavior - cf.

[**Lk 10:21**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2010.21)**;** 21In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

 3. Should His "branches" do any less?

[These are different kinds of "fruits" we can bear as "branches" of the

"Vine."

But how does bearing such fruit make for the **"abundant life"**

which Jesus promised?

Let us Consider the following...]

**II. THE BENEFITS OF BEARING SUCH FRUIT**

1. **THERE IS GREAT "JOY" FOR THOSE WHO WIN SOULS...**

 1. John says that there is "no greater joy" –

[**3Jn 3-4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/3Jn%203-4)3For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.4I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

 2. Also think about Paul's converts at Thessalonica where he considered them his "pride and joy".

[**1Th 2:19-20**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%202.19-20)19For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?20For ye are our glory and joy.

 3. So those involved in the winning and confirming of souls for

 Christ find great joy as they see the fruits of their labors

Next….

 **B. THERE IS GREAT "HAPPINESS" FOR THOSE WHO SHARE THEIR**

 **POSSESSIONS...**

 1. They learn by experience the truthfulness of Jesus' teachings

 2. Who said, **"It is more blessed to give than to receive" –**

[**Acts 20:35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2020.35)35I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

 3. The word "blessed" can be best translated "O how very happy", so

 there is greater happiness in giving than in receiving

 **C. THERE IS GREAT "ASSURANCE" FOR THOSE WHO DEVELOP CHRIST-LIKE**

 **CHARACTER...**

 1. because Those in whom "the fruit of the Spirit" is produced they are free from any condemnation of law as the scripture declares….

[**Ga 5:23b**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%205.23b)**;** 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

[**Ro 8:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.1) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

 2. I believe that those who abound in the "knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" develop the graces described they also have the assurance of an "abundant entrance" into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord.

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[**2Pe 1:8-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%201.8-11)8For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.9But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.10Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:11For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

 3. For example, those who love in deed and truth have an assurance

 of their salvation.

[**1Jn 3:18-19**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%203.18-19)18My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.19And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

 **D. THERE IS GREAT "PEACE" FOR THOSE GIVEN TO THANKSGIVING...**

 1. For those with the "attitude of gratitude", there is the "peace

 of God".

[**Php 4:6-7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Php%204.6-7)6Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.7And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

 2. A peace which...

 a. **"Surpasses all understanding"**!

 b. **"Will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"**!

**CONCLUSION**

1. A life filled with...

 a. Joy

 b. Happiness

 c. Assurance

 d. Peace

 ...surely that is the "abundant life"!

2. Thus **"The Secret Of Living the Abundant Life Is Bearing Fruit"**, and this "abundant

 life" is available to only those who will "bear fruit" as "branches"

 of the "True Vine" (Jesus Christ)!

3. But is there a secret to bearing fruit? Indeed there is,

 I will seek to discern from **Jn 15** what that secret is.

For the time being, if you have not yet become a "branch" of the "True

Vine", have you given serious consideration to becoming one...?