


# THE POWER OF FRUITFULNESS

## John 15:1-17

- **In *The Power Principle* Emphasis we're focused on becoming stronger Christians as we learn and apply life-changing principles to our lives.**
- **One of the keys to becoming a stronger Christian is becoming a real disciple ("follower" or "learner") of Jesus Christ.**
- ***What does a real "disciple of Jesus" look and act like?***
- Jesus - *"You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings."* (John 8:31)
- Jesus - *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."* (John 13:35)
- Jesus - *"When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples.This brings great glory to My Father."* (John 15:8)
- **The fruit of a Christian is another person who is motivated to become a follower of Jesus because of the way we live, serve and share our faith.**
- ***What does it take to "produce much fruit" for God's Kingdom?***

***Producing Much "Fruit" Requires:***

## ABIDING IN <u>JESUS</u>

- Jesus - *"Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing."* (John 15:4-5)
- **To "abide in Jesus" we have to *Daily Interact with Him*.**
    - **We experience the Lord's presence in our lives through prayer, worship and Bible study.**

    - Jesus - *"When you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."* (Matthew 6:6)
    - *"They delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. . . . and they prosper in all they do."* (Psalm 1:2-3)
- **To "abide in Jesus" we have to *Regularly Connect With Christians*.**
    - **We "connect" with other Believers by joining with them regularly for Small Group studies, ministry activities and Worship services.**
    - *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near."* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

***Producing Much "Fruit" Requires:***

## OBEYING THE <u>LORD</u>

- Jesus - *"I have loved you even as the Father has loved Me. Remain in My love. When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father's commandments and remain in His love."* (John 15:9-10)
- **Real disciples of Jesus are committed to learning and living by His Word.**
- Jesus - *"If you love Me, obey My commandments."* (John 14:15)
- **People are: 1) Rejectors of God's Word, 2) Hearers of God's Word, or 3) Doers of God's Word**.
- Jesus - *"You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32)
- **We should want to live obedient lives because of how greatly we are loved by the Lord.**

***Producing Much "Fruit" Requires:***

## SHOWING LOVE TO <u>OTHERS</u>

- Jesus - *"This is My commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you."* (John 15:12)
- **The Bible teaches us that love is a choice (Colossians 3:14), and that love is an action, not just an emotion.**
- *"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."* (1 John 3:18)
- **We demonstrate our love for others by: 1) Praying for them, 2) Affirming them, 3) Spending time with them, and 4) Giving to help them.**
- **To really love others we have to overcome difficulties, disagreements, disappointments, demands, etc., we can do this when we are surrendered to God's Spirit (Romans 5:5, Galatians 5:22-23)**
- Jesus – *"This is My command: Love each other."* (John 15:17)

- **Our ability to love others like Jesus loves us determines if we are able to produce much "fruit" in our lives.**

***Producing Much "Fruit" Requires:***

## MAKING <u>DISCIPLES</u>

- Jesus - *"I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit..."* (John 15:16)
- **Making Disciples involves *Sharing the Gospel* with people.**
    - *"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."* (Mark 16:15)
    - **Bringing the "Good News" to people requires: 1) Praying for them (Romans 9:1-3, 10:1), 2) Living godly lives in front of them (Matthew 5:16), 3) Ministering to them (Acts 10:38), 4) Giving them Christian materials, 5) Serving them (1 Corinthians 9:19), 6) Inviting them to Life Groups and Worship Services (John 1:40-42), and 7) Sharing Jesus with them (Acts 8:1-40).**
    - Jesus - *"Go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you. So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him."* (Luke 8:39)
- **Making Disciples involves *Teaching People* to follow the Lord.**
    - Jesus - *"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."* (Matthew 28:20)
    - **We help People become Disciples of Jesus by: 1) Connecting with them (1 Thessalonians 3:11), 2) Encouraging them (Acts 11:23), 3) Modeling real Christianity to them (1 Corinthians 11:1), 4) Teaching them (Acts 18:26), and 5) Taking them with us to do ministry.**
    - *"Teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."* (2 Timothy 2:2)

- **Most people want to experience success in some areas of their lives.**
- **Success in the life of a Christian occurs when God's Spirit works through them to produce "much fruit."**
- **Producing "much fruit" brings glory to the Lord (John 15:8), helps others in significant ways, and brings great joy in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"* (John 15:11)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***