

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the secret to fruitfulness?
2. How do we abide in Christ?
3. What are some conditions of fruitbearing?
4. What is the difference between fruit and works?
5. If one finds it a struggle to live the Christian life, what is wrong?
6. As a tree bears fruit in season, does the Christian have seasons of fruitfulness?
7. How does pruning relate to fruitfulness?
8. Is there anything significant in bearing fruit, more fruit and much fruit?
9. What is the value of pruning?

### SUMMARY:

If I had an apple tree in my yard that refused to bear good apples, or any at all, what could I do in order that there might be some good apples on my tree? The easiest thing to do would be to go to the store, buy a box of apples, and tie them to the tree branches. My friends and passersby would think it was a healthy apple tree, because of the outward appearance, but in fact the tree would be worthless, because it would not be producing the fruit. This method is of no value. The correct thing would be to fertilize the tree, water it, etc., and when the tree is healthy, it will produce fruit itself. Thus we see the contrast between good works, produced by our own efforts, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

May 8, 2005

Second Quarter

### CHRIST EMPHASIZES FRUITBEARING

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**LESSON TEXT:** *John 15:1-17*

**LESSON SETTING:** Jesus speaks to His disciples after the Last Supper in Jerusalem.

**TIME:** Approximately 33 A.D.

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**I. CHRIST THE VINE.** John 15:1

- A. Christ is the Vine (vs. 1)
- B. The Father is the Husbandman. (vs. 1)

**II. THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES.** John 15:2-7

- A. The Vine, the True Source of Life (vs. 4-5) John 1:4; 1 John 5:12
- B. Fruitless Branch Cut Off (vs. 2, 6) Matthew 3:10; Hebrews 6:8
- C. Fruitbearing Branch Purged (vs. 2, 4-5) Proverbs 3:11-12
- D. Branch Dependent on Vine (vs. 4) 1 John 2:28

**III. THE FRUITFUL LIFE.** John 15:8-17

- A. Father is Glorified (vs. 8) Matthew 5:16
- B. Keeping the Commandments (vs. 10, 12) Matthew 19:17-21; 1 John 5:3
- C. Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9

**GOLDEN TEXT: I AM THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES: HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.**

John 15:5

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** John 16:1-15  
**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Exodus 31:1-11;  
Judges 15:9-20;  
Psalm 51:10-13

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Christ, the Son of God

**TOPIC:** CHRIST PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

**INTRODUCTION:**

Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and dwell in believers. However, He also told of the work that the Spirit does in the world.

- 1) He convicts men of sin because of their unbelief. Only the Holy Spirit can make a person realize his guilt of sin.
- 2) A second work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of the truth about righteousness. While Christ was on earth, He taught and demonstrated in His life the Way of righteousness. Now, it is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Another function of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of judgment. "Their inward thought is that their houses shall continue forever." (Psalm 49:11)

The prince of this world, the devil, is judged, and likewise shall all be judged who follow him. God, being a just God, convicts sinners of their sin, convinces them of righteousness, and warns them of judgment so that each one might seek His mercy while there is opportunity; and that none could have an excuse of not being warned.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Christ has sent the Holy Spirit to work in and through the believer.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH IS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH.*  
John 16:13

Jesus had told the disciples many things during His ministry, and He had much more to tell them. However, to remember and understand these things was too much for them. They needed the Spirit dwelling within them. We can see that the effectiveness of the Spirit in them was such that the unconverted people were not able to resist the wisdom and power by which they spoke.

Every Christian should realize the importance of the Spirit in his life, since we cannot know anything of God but by the Spirit. We cannot accomplish anything for God but by the Spirit. We cannot see with our eyes, hear with our ears, nor imagine in our mind what God hath for us in this life or in the life to come. (1 Corinthians 2:9) "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God". (1 Corinthians 2:12) Let us continuously yield our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit that He might be effective in us, as He was in the "unlearned and ignorant men" of the early church.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 9 - 15**

- M. The Holy Spirit Prophesied. Joel 2:28-32
- T. \*The Spirit Promised. John 16:1-7
- W. \*The Spirit Explained. John 16:8-15
- T. The Spirit Sent. Acts 2:1-8
- F. The Spirit Operative. Acts 5:1-16
- S. The Spirit Coveted. Acts 8:9-23
- S. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:1-13