

# Lighthouse Beacon

January 2012

## Bearing Kingdom Fruit

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." John 15:1-2

First of all we want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! May 2012 be the very best year yet as you bear much Fruit for God's Kingdom. To help you in this effort, we start the year by continuing our study on what it means to bear Kingdom Fruit.

This month consider what happens when we are fruitless – can this happen to a Christian? Can we recover? Will we ever again be able to.....*Let Him Shine!* ~Kim

### Can we stop bearing His fruit?

"Now if any man builds on the foundation [Jesus] with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

NASB

Here Paul explains to the Corinthians that while we can be very busy in our religious works, we might not be producing Kingdom Fruit. It is very easy – maybe even the normal operating mode – for us to get involved in activities that are 'good' things to do and are appealing to our moral, human nature. However, doing good is not always the same as doing Kingdom work because even those who are lost will strive to do



what is considered good by mankind.

Remember, bearing Kingdom Fruit is not a result of doing good, but of God working through us. We can stop bearing His fruit when we get distracted by 'doing what is right in our own eyes' (Judges 17:6) and neglect to seek Him and be obedient to His desires for us..

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." John 15:4 NLT

Just as Jesus said, we cannot bear Kingdom Fruit apart from Him. Either we are actively seeking to be obedient or we are pursuing self-will, also known as self-righteousness. Do not be distracted by what seems to be a 'good' thing or something that appeals to the flesh. Instead, make it a habit throughout the day to 'seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness' and He will produce more Kingdom Fruit for you to bear.

*"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matt 5:16*

**Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world." —John 8:12**

**Can we lose the fruit we are given to bear?**

"Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward." 2 John 8 NLT

Some scholars (many?) might not agree with me, but if Kingdom Fruit, especially the Fruit of the Spirit, is something produced by God in us and through us and we are given the privilege to bear that fruit so He can use it not only to change our lives but also to impact the lives of those around us, then I believe Kingdom Fruit should be considered a reward for surrendered obedience. And I would propose that Kingdom Fruit is the

catalyst from which all other Heavenly rewards originate. In other words, the works that God rewards are a byproduct of the fruit He produces in us.

So when we notice that we are lacking in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control but we are becoming more occupied with immorality, impurity, sensuality, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, dissensions, or divisions, then we may very well be in danger of losing the Kingdom Fruit we have been bearing. As Paul says in Galatians 5:16-17, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the

desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do." ESV

When Christians walk under the influence of the flesh instead of under the influence of God's Holy Spirit, I believe

we put our ability to bear Kingdom Fruit at risk because we are choking off the supply of His life flowing through us. The fruit we have been bearing dries up due to a lack of nourishment from the Holy Spirit and eventually falls away, leaving us with no evidence to the world of Christ living in us. And when we lose the fruit, we lose

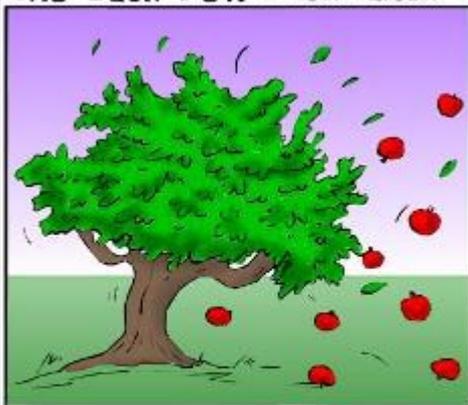
the potential for the rewards it could have produced.

**Can we recover if we have stopped bearing His fruit?**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24 ESV

Yes, by His grace we can recover when we have stopped bearing fruit. But the recovery process needed for fruit bearing often requires repentance and brokenness. In order to resume bearing His fruit, our relationship with Him first needs to be restored. If you sense fruit-

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



Ever had a 'bad hair day'? How about a 'bad fruit of the spirit day'? Windblown, and frazzled. No peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, love, joy, self control, goodness, or faithfulness to be found. Gal 5:22

**"...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." —Ephesians 5:8**

lessness in your life, ask Him to reveal what has gone wrong and what is needed to 'die to self' once again so you can return to living for Him.

**"But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the**

**water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8 NLT**

Trusting Him to guide us, teach us, use us and bless us allows our 'roots' to become deeply anchored in His soil. Then we are watered and nurtured by

### **Gwen's Corner**

In order to gain a hearing for the Gospel from the pagan neighbors in Crete, Paul taught Titus that the believer's primary preparation for evangelism is to live among them with a testimony of righteous, loving, selfless and godly lives, including how they behaved with governmental authorities. Paul continually emphasized good works and good deeds as a platform for witnessing. *For the grace of God has appeared . . . training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age . . . Remind them [believers] to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.* - Titus 2:11-12,3:1-2 It is as DL Moody once said, "Where one man reads the Bible, a hundred read you and me."

So if you are looking to set some goals or New Year's resolutions, meditate on these and ask God to cause them to infiltrate your lifestyle in the coming year so that His light will shine bright in the world through you.

*Strive for peace with everyone and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.* Heb. 12:14

***"You are the light of the world." —Matthew 5:14***

His Holy Spirit and Kingdom Fruit is the natural result of this wonderful, joyous relationship. Be aggressive in your desire to trust Him and He will reward your faith with his Fruit.

*"For once you were full of darkness,*

*but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true." Ephesians 5:8-9 NLT*  
Therefore, dear Lighthouses, when you bear Fruit you will.....*Let Him Shine!*

# 2012 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

**January 30th-February 1st @ Hoffmantown Church**

**Several great speakers, including Lee Stroebe**

Learn more at <http://www.bcnm.com>



## LightShine's Praises & Prayer Requests:

**PRAISE!** For God's provision & guidance as LightShine begins its 13<sup>th</sup> year of ministry!

**PRAY:** That we would be sensitive to hearing and respond obediently to His direction for the coming year.

**PRAY:** That every Christian would realize their calling to be His lights in this world—to family members, to neighbors and those whom God will bring into our life's path this year.

## ***Who Is LightShine Ministries?***

*LightShine is a faith-based ministry, supported by gifts from individuals like you. We work with many ministries, churches & denominations at local, state & national levels. If you want to help support LightShine, with your prayers, time, resources, or finances, contact us at 505-293-0743 or write to us at LightShine Ministries, 2039 Virginia NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110*