Spirit-led people are fruitful and productive just like Abraham was

**Experience productive fruitfulness**

**Monday**

Read Psalms 126, Romans 4:17

A crisis in your faith will produce fruitfulness. When the pressures of life mercilessly squeeze you, God will bring something amazing out of you. **Pray** today about your crisis of faith.

**Tuesday**

Read Genesis 1:27-28, Isaiah 54

You are desperate to be fruitful because that is how God created you: to break your constraints, your limits, to go farther, to achieve more, to reach your God-given dreams and goals. **Write down** the hopes God has placed in your heart.

**Wednesday**

Read Genesis 1:27-28, John 15, Romans 8:29

A fruitful person must first be conformed into the image of Jesus, blessed by God and not afraid to ask God. **Meditate** on what God is conforming in your life into the image of His Son.

**Thursday**

Read Romans 4:11-16, Matthew 5:5, Genesis 15:5, Romans 8:17, Hebrews 6:13-20

You can be as blessed and fruitful as Abraham was. **Ask** God today to make you incredibly fruitful.

**Friday**

Read 1 Timothy 4:8, Matthew 5:3-10

God’s blessings (the source of all fruitfulness) are not only for eternity, they are for you right now. Spend time **praising** God for his blessed and fruitful plans for you.

Spirit-led people are fruitful and productive just like Abraham was

Can we be as blessed and as fruitful as Abraham was?

Abraham was fruitful in more than one way:

* Spiritually (his relationship with God grew stronger and more evident)
* Family (he eventually had a son and then other offspring)
* Materially (Flocks, herds, accumulations of possessions, land)

Can we be as blessed and fruitful as Abraham was?

Genesis 12:2-3 New International Version (NIV)

**2**

“I will make you into a great nation,

    and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,

    and you will be a blessing.

**3**

I will bless those who bless you,

    and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth

    will be blessed through you.”

Does the Holy Spirit lead you to blessing and fruitfulness in your life?

Does God want you to thrive and be fruitful in your life?

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How does fruitfulness start?  Where does it come from?

Many times is comes from a crisis in your faith.

Crisis of faith leads to you breaking through to productivity and fruitfulness

Crisis in your faith - experiencing the despair, discouragement and hopelessness, convinced you can’t do it or you can’t make it. Maybe that what you have to work with is not good enough, not strong enough, not smart enough, not talented enough…things feel lifeless and dead. Or worse still that you don’t have anything to work with at all. There is no health, there is no faith, there is money to invest, there are no resources, no one to believe in you, you have no ideas, you don’t have have a plan, you have no connection with anybody important.

**Psalm 126:6 New International Version (NIV)**

**6**Those who go out weeping,

    carrying seed to sow,

will return with songs of joy,

    carrying sheaves with them.

**Romans 4:17 New International Version (NIV)**

**17**the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

I have found a consistent pattern in my crises of faith:

* I had no friends, I was insecure, I had no direction, I had all kinds of doubts about Christianity, I sought the Lord and He implanted leadership in me
* I was resentful and obsessively angry and God poured out His loving forgiveness in me and I was able to forgive.
* I was bored out of my mind with a dead-end job and no hope for change, and I created a corporate training that changed the direction of my life.
* I had impending loss of employment and I wrote a book.
* I felt left behind and excluded and God gave me and idea that is promoting me to this day.

A crisis of faith brings about fruitfulness!

When the pressures of life mercilessly squeeze you, God always is prepared to produce something good out of you…if you will turn your attention, your desperation, your aggravation, your confusion, your frustration to Him.

When you are in a crisis of faith, concentrate all your efforts on being uniquely fruitful.

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Most people are desperate to be fruitful.

That is how God created you, to break your constraints, your limits, to go farther, to achieve more, to reach God-given dreams and goals.

(Stop dreaming your dreams and setting your own goals…God has something way bigger for you!)

* You have a good idea, you want to see it become a reality.
* You have a solution to a problem, you want to see it implemented.
* You know how to help someone, you want to take action and see their lives improved.
* You have the answer to peoples empty, dark lives, you want to share the love of Jesus and see them turned around.

Where does this insatiable desire come from?

God put it into you when He created you!

**Genesis 1:27**

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**28**God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

We want to be be someone.

We want to accomplish something lasting.

We want to leave a lasting legacy, to be remembered.

Is that so wrong? Well…it depends.

* Do you want fruit for yourself or do you want fruit for your Lord and King?

I have a consistent request of the Lord…”God you have invested in me, poured into me for 50 years, you’ve been unbelievably patient with me and stuck with me. Now God, please don’t loose all you have invested in me. Let me be incredibly fruitful for you and for you alone.”

Matthew 3:8 New International Version (NIV)

**8**Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Matthew 15:13 New International Version (NIV)

**13**He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.

Let’s look at a few “pictures” of what fruitfulness looks like:

**Serve and succeed**

“Do what no one else is willing or able to do.”

Fruitfulness defined - SUCCESS

* At work
* Pray for people who other’s won’t pray for
* Help people who no one else will help

**Invest and get results**

Time, emotion, effort and yes, even money.

I heard a pastor say, If the earth as we know it is still around 1000 years, ever single company you know now will be gone and new one’s will have sprung up. But you know the one entity that will still be here? The church! The body of Jesus. So why not invest in something that is sure to last and grow and produce fruit???

That same pastor I mentioned, puts his money where his mouth is. He and his wife decided long ago to increase their tithe from 10% by 1% each year, and now they are tithing 90% of their income and living off of 10%.

**Mentor and observe growth**

Pour yourself into someone else. Parents…first and foremost your children. Managers/supervisors…your staff. Spiritual leaders…those who listen to you.

I’ll never forget talking a guy to lunch, president of a local insurance company. The Lord impressed me to tell him that God had more for his life than simply leading a company, God wanted him to reach His employees for the Kingdom. After I told him this all I got was a blank stare. He admitted that this had never crossed him mind and I am pretty sure he had no idea what I was talking about.  You talk about embarrassing and awkward!

Several months later we ran into each other and he was so excited. He had taken a couple of his key people and was pouring himself into them professionally and spiritually. At night we would walk through the offices of all his staff praying over each of them individually!

If you supervise someone, as a Christian you better be the best boss you can be.  Take a personal interest in their lives, exhort them professionally and find ways of reaching them for Christ.  Let your life speak for itself and when you have the opportunity, speak!!

**Learn and implement**

How can you be a growing, fruitful Christian if you aren’t constantly learning something new about God, about the law of the Spirit, about the word of God, about God’s ways? Since God is always teaching, we need to always be learning.

James 1:22 New International Version (NIV)

**22**Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (implement what you learn)

**Colossians 1:10 New International Version (NIV)**

**10**so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

As soon as you learn something, implement it for yourself. Test it, experiment with what you learn, practice it and get better at it. Become an expert in the things of the Spirit.

God always intended for you to be extremely fruitful

**John 15**

**15**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2**He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

**4**Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

**5**“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

**7**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8**This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**16**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

There is a secret to explosive fruitfulness that you can only find in God, no other place. the Bible speaks of mysteries, and this is certainly a mystery.

**Genesis 1:27**So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**28**God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

1. He prunes - to shape, to promote growth, to focus in the right direction, to promote health…the pruning process is God’s process for conforming us into His image…might include some suffering, some discomfort.

**Romans 8:29 New International Version (NIV)**

**29**For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

2. The blessing of God - which results from lovingly obeying God by following His Holy Spirit

Remaining in Christ is part of the conforming process but it is also the primary means for us to receive blessing from God.

3. The person conformed into Jesus image will ask and always receive because they are in sync with what God wants. Praying in the Spirit, in other words, praying with the Spirit.

My fruit glorifies God and displays to others who and what you are. You are a son, a daughter of God and you are a disciple of Jesus.

Write down the fruit you want from God and start asking Him for it.

Can I be as blessed and fruitful as Abraham was?

**Romans 4:11...**So then, he is the father of all who believe ... who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham.

**13...** received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

**16**Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring

What is a promise to be heir of the world?

**Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**Genesis 15:5**He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

This was the basic covenant promise that God made to Abraham. It was a promise of continuing fruitfulness!

And from John 15, it is very evident that God wants, expects and predestines us to be fruitful.

Romans 4 makes it abundantly clear that Abraham’s promise is guaranteed to those of us who have the same faith connection Abraham had with God.

Usually we think of an heir and inheritance having to do with death. Through the death of Jesus, we have are co-heirs with Jesus! Through His death He because the heir of the world, and we with Him are co-heirs.

**Romans 8:17 New International Version (NIV)**

**17**Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

When does God want you to inherit the earth (be fruitful)? After you die and go to heaven, or does He want you to be joyously fruitful right now, today?

Matthew 5:3-10 New International Version (NIV)

**3**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,

    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4**

Blessed are those who mourn,

    for they will be comforted.

**5**

Blessed are the meek,

    for they will inherit the earth.

**6**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

    for they will be filled.

**7**

Blessed are the merciful,

    for they will be shown mercy.

**8**

Blessed are the pure in heart,

    for they will see God.

**9**

Blessed are the peacemakers,

    for they will be called children of God.

**10**

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Are these blessings on for the life to come or for this life as well?

They are for both!!!!!

The meek shall inherit the earth yes in eternity, but also yes in this present life. - we will be fruitful here and now!

Is the kingdom of heaven only in eternity.  Jesus preach the kingdom of heaven is near.  What did that translate into? Healing, provisions, miracles, salvation, deliverance…here, now

Is comfort only later? No, it is also now.

Is Mercy only later? No, it is most certainly also now.

Are we children of God only later?, No, most certainly now.

And so goes with inheriting the earth!!  Yes, in eternity, but also now

**1 Timothy 4:8 New International Version (NIV)**

**8**For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.