



Obviously, a true confession of faith in Christ will bring an ardent desire in our hearts to produce fruit to the glory of God.

Here is Jesus' command on bearing fruit:

John 15:16: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain."

How is that accomplished?

Luke 6:45: "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

Why must we bear fruit for Christ?

Romans 7:4: "Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God."

John 12:24: "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 15:1-2: "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."

Do I understand the importance of bearing fruit to God's glory, as proof of my belief in Christ as Savior and Lord?

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**“That you may walk worthy of
the Lord, fully pleasing Him,
being fruitful in every good work
and increasing in the
knowledge of God.”**

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Col 1:10

The core reason to bear fruit in Christ is obviously to live to please God. What then is God’s purpose in commanding us to bear fruit?

Titus 2:13-14: “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.”

James 1:18: “Of His own will, He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.”

How is that accomplished?

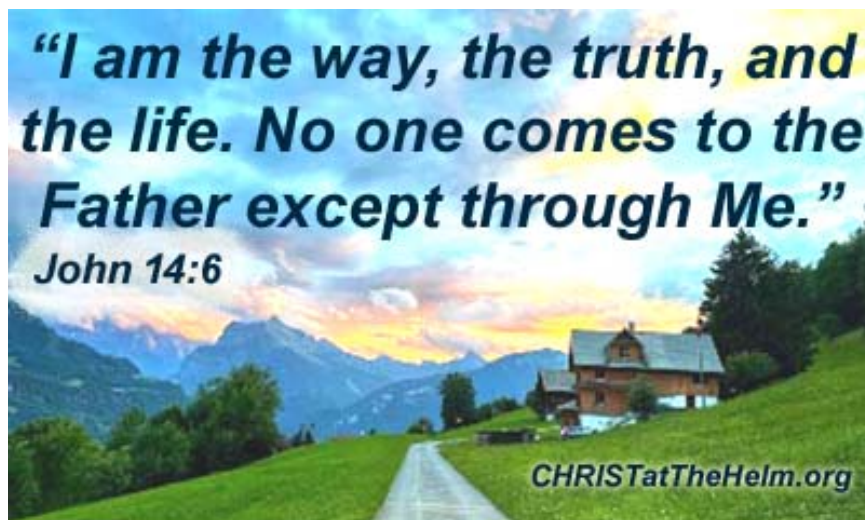
2Peter 1:3-4: “His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.”

Why?

2Cor 5:10: “For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.”

Do I realize that, as Heb 4:13 says: “There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account?”

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The one and only way to God is clearly through Christ Jesus. In John 10:9 Jesus declared, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

Therefore, as Christ is the door to salvation, it follows that we must abide in Him to bear fruit. Here are Jesus' words on this:

John 10:4-5: "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. I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

John 8:31: "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples."

Why?

1Cor 1:30-31: "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Col 2:6: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

How?

Col 3:1-3: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Does my heart abide in Christ, or does it float with the world?

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The Word of God commands us to abide in Christ and to produce fruit to the glory of God. How is that achieved?

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Eph 5:8-9: "For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth."

1John 2:15: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Why?

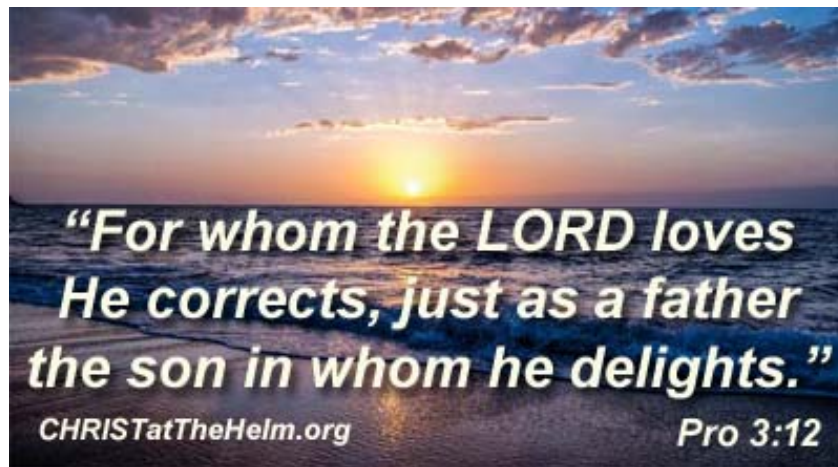
1John 2:16-17: "For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

Gal 5:24-26: "And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

Gal 6:9: "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Do I understand how I must abide in Christ, and produce fruit to His glory?

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In John 15:2, Jesus declared, "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."

In essence, hypocrites Christ rejects, but those who are surrendered to Him, He corrects and guides to fulfill His will.

Why is that?

Pro 16:9: "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."

In other words, in abiding in Christ, we must expect that if we take a wrong turn in our faith or attitudes, the Lord will guide us, and will even chasten us if we keep going in the wrong direction.

On this, Heb 12:11 adds: "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Why?

Heb 12:6: "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

And the purpose is:

Rom 5:3-4: "But we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Psalm 94:12: "Blessed is the one you discipline, LORD, the one you teach from your law."

Do I understand that God's purpose to correct or chasten me is meant to make me bear more fruit to His glory?

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The Word of God contains all we need to guide us and show us the path of righteousness, how to abide in Christ to produce fruit, but as well warns us against following the world.

What are those warnings?

John 15:6: "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

Mat 7:15-16: Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."

Jeremiah 6:19: "Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people, the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words nor My law, but rejected it."

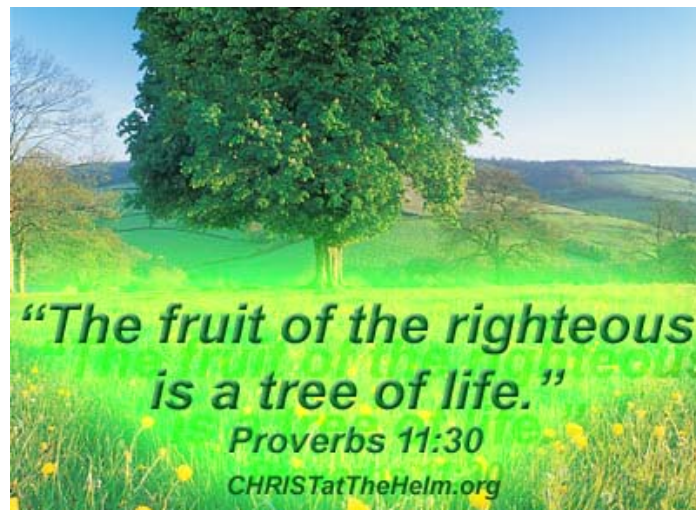
Mat 7:19: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the most serious warning is:

Heb 6:4-6: "For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame."

Considering my life, do I walk the path of the righteous, to the glory of God?

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How does scripture define what bearing fruit for Christ encompasses?
Gal 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Mat 13:23: "As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the Word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Philippians 1:9-11: "And this I pray, that your love may overflow still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may discover the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, for the glory and praise of God."

And the outcome of bearing fruit results in:

Rom 6:22: "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life."

Matthew 25:21: "His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

How sincere and pleasant to the Lord is the fruit produced in my life to the glory of God?

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