

welcome to the
fruit factory
What fruit is your life producing?



Pastor Hugh's Message Series Sundays 9am & 10:30am

How to Become a Fruit Factory (John 15:1-11)
February 16, 2025

John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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.

⁵ "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. 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. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

- A. Welcome to the Fruit Factory! As I have been sharing each week, as a Church and as Christians we are to be fruit factories for Jesus.

Your life should be producing the fruit of Jesus.

And in fact, the longer you live for Jesus, the more fruit of Jesus you should produce.

- B. Last week we learned about the fruit of sanctification; that God wants you to be set apart from this world; that is, living God-like every day and in every way.

And Jesus has broken the power of sin in your life, which means, being God-like is not only possible, but plausible.

Through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, you have been empowered by God to live God-like in this world.

- C. So, this morning, we are going to answer the question:
HOW?

How do I produce the fruit of God in my life?

How do I become a Fruit Factory for Jesus.

1. Jesus Gives You the PICTURE of a Fruitful Life

Jn. 15:5

⁵“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;

A. What is the picture Jesus gives you?

Here's the picture:

Cluster of purple, ripe, delicious grapes attached to a grape vine that is producing more and more grapes.

B. I love grapes – especially frozen grapes.

My grandparents – had a grapevine – and every year it was full of concord grapes.

Well, Jesus, is saying that's the picture I want for your life.

I want your life to be loaded with purple, ripe, delicious grapes.

I want you waking up every morning and you are covered from head to toe with purple, ripe, delicious grapes.

I want you looking like you're trying out for Fruit of the Loom. (Now there's a picture)

C. So, this is the picture Jesus wants you to have for the rest of your life when you think about your relationship with Jesus.

You're loaded with grapes because you are attached to Jesus (not church, not religion, but Jesus).

2. Jesus Gives You the PRACTICE of a Fruitful Life

A. There are 2 questions we need to answer:

(1) What's the fruit?

(2) How do we produce this fruit?

B. What's the fruit?

Very simple: It's the character & conduct of Christ.

Gal. 5:22-23 – The fruit of the Spirit/Jesus

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

C. How do we produce this fruit?

⁵“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.

The secret to producing the fruit of Jesus in your life is found in the word Jesus repeats 9 times in these 11 verses.

And I guarantee, you cannot miss it. What word does Jesus repeat?

Jn. 15:4

⁴ 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.

And Jesus repeats “Abide” 8 more times.

- D. So, if you are going to bear the fruit of Jesus in your life, what must you do? ABIDE.

What does Jesus mean by “abide”?

Many people think “abide” means to be connected, because you can’t grow grapes if they’re not connected to a vine.

So, if you want to produce the fruit of Jesus you have to be connected to Jesus.

That “sounds right,” but that’s “NOT RIGHT.”

- E. Truth is, branches can be connected to a vine and never produce fruit.

And people can be connected to Jesus and not have any fruit.

- F. Jesus saw first-hand people who were connected to Him, but they were absolutely fruitless & useless.

Which is why Jesus said,

² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away;

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.

- G. Can you take a guess which disciple was on Jesus’ mind when He said you may be connected to Me, but you have no fruit of Me? JUDAS...

...Who was connected to Jesus for over 3 years.

What do you think happened to Judas after he betrayed Jesus and died? He went to Hell.

Why? Because he only got connected to Jesus.

- H. Many people have gotten connected to Jesus.
Many of you have gotten connected to Jesus.
Some of you have been connected to Jesus for years.

But here’s the big question:

Has your CONNECTION resulted in an INJECTION of Jesus’ life into yours?

In other words, is His life, His character, His conduct, flowing IN you.

And let me add: Is His life flowing OUT of you?

- I. Listen carefully what Jesus said:

⁴ 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.

Another word for “abide” = Remain = meaning staying plugged in.

I am to stay plugged into Jesus and experience Jesus pouring His life into me.

And whatever He pours in, I pour out.

And what pours out of me is the fruit of Jesus.

- J. So, let's review.

What is the word Jesus tells us that is the secret to producing fruit? **ABIDE**

Does ABIDE mean you can be connected to Jesus and bear fruit? NO

What does it mean? You have to REMAIN in Jesus; you must stay plugged into Jesus and experience the life of Jesus being poured into you.

Only then will you produce the fruit of Jesus.

- K. So, here's the next question:

What does Jesus want to pour into your life?

I've already said Jesus wants to pour His life into you. What specifically does Jesus want to pour into you?

Listen to what Jesus in verse 7

⁷ “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,”

- L. What specifically is Jesus going to pour into you? HIS WORDS.

PICTURE: There are 2 Greek words for the word, “word.”

Logos = The Word of God

Rhema = a personal word from God to you.

Which does Jesus want to pour into you? Logos or Rhema?

He wants to pour His RHEMA into you.

- M. No doubt, we need to be in the Word of God (logos), but if you are going to produce fruit for Jesus, you need Jesus' words (rhema) in you.

You don't need my word.

You don't need a friend's word.

You don't need a family member's word.

You need Jesus' word.

That means, you need to hear Jesus speaking to you.

You need to hear a personal word from Jesus to you.

N. How do you hear a personal word from Jesus?

2 primary ways:

(1) By being Scripture Fed

(a) I'm hearing God speak to my heart through the Scriptures.

In other words, I'm reading the Bible.

But I'm not just reading the Bible. I'm reading the Bible in such a way that it is reading me, and through the Bible I hear God speaking to my life.

(b) You should make it a priority to be Scripture fed.

And you can be Scripture fed in many ways:

- Through the preaching of the Word
- Through study of God's Word with others in Grow Groups
- Through devotion books that explain God's Word
- And most importantly, by reading and studying the Bible for yourself.

(c) Let me share with you how I study the Bible.

I don't read the Bible just to read the Bible.

The first thing I do is PRAY; I get my heart right, aligned with God so I can rightly hear from God.

Then, I do 3 things every time I read the Bible:

(1) OBSERVATION – What do I see?

I read the text and make observations about the text.

(2) INTERPRETATION – What does it mean?

I research the background of the text so I can make a right interpretation of the text.

(3) APPLICATION –What is God saying to me?

I ask God: So, what?

I'm listening for God to answer:

- God, what do You want me to learn about You?
- God, what do I need to learn about deepening my relationship with You?
- God, how I can better serve You?
- God, how I can I make a difference for You?

(d) Let's practice:

Jn. 15:5

⁵"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.

There's a 2nd way for receiving Jesus' Word:

(2) By being Spirit Led

Jn. 16:12-13

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

(a) God will speak to me and lead me throughout the day by His Holy Spirit.

God may give me a word of:

Instruction

Direction

Correction

Protection

Evangelization

The Holy Spirit will put a thought in your mind and you think, where did that thought come from?
And you know it's a word from God to you.

Ex. Holy Spirit leads me to make a phone call or make a visit...

(b) God promises to guide you by His Spirit.

And as you seek to follow the Lord, you will be prompted by the Holy Spirit giving you specific directions.

One of my favorite Bible verses:

Isaiah 30:21

²¹ Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

O. So as you GROW in Grow in God's Word and as you GO in the leadership of the Holy Spirit, you are going to produce some awesome fruit OF Jesus and FOR Jesus.

And here's what God will do:

He will pour out His life IN you and THROUGH you.

That's the practice of a fruitful life, but then there's...

3. Jesus Gives You the PROMISE of a Fruitful Life

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

A. What a promise? Jesus gave many promises, but this has to be at the top.

He's not giving you permission to pray *carte blanche*.
He's not giving you a blank check and saying, "ask for whatever you want."

He's not telling you to ask for anything and everything.

But He is promising to answer your prayers, especially when your desires are in line with His desires; and your heart is in line with His heart.

B. Can I tell you what prayers are close to God's heart?

Any prayer that is magnifying Jesus.

Any prayer that is glorifying Jesus.

Any prayer that is accentuating Jesus.

Any prayer that is elevating Jesus.

Any prayer that is getting your heart turned to Jesus.

Any prayer that is getting people to Jesus.

Any prayer that is making you more like Jesus.

C. Those are the prayer He promises to answer.

That's not to say He won't heal your cancer.

If that's what brings Him the greatest glory, He'll heal it.

The greatest prayer we should pray is to be like Jesus.

D. I know most of you here today pray, and you have a list of items you pray to God about.

How about adding to your prayer list this prayer:

"God, make me more and more like Jesus."

I dare you to pray that prayer every day for the rest of your life. And watch God produce some amazing fruit with your life.

E. Because Jesus longs to work in you and through you.

That's what Jesus wanted for His disciples, who BTW, were off the chart with worry and fear and discouragement and disappointment because Jesus was leaving them and going back to Heaven.

And Jesus assured them that if they would ABIDE in Him, He would work IN them, THROUGH them, and FOR them.

And Jesus will do the same for you.

F. Abide in Jesus and ask God to make you more and more like Jesus, and watch God work His wonders in your life.

Final thought:

4. Jesus Gives You the PAYOFF of a Fruitful Life

¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

A. What's the payoff? JOY (not happiness)

Joy = total satisfaction with God = that's the ultimate Joy.

John Piper

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

B. Let me give you a word that needs to be heard:

"The more fruitful you are. The more joyful you are."

In other words, there's a payoff for those who produce the fruit of Jesus.

The payoff is this:

1) Jesus' joy will be IN you.

Can you imagine the joy Jesus has?

Do you think Jesus has a little joy or a lot of joy?

I think Jesus has a LOT of joy.

In fact, I think Jesus has more joy than anyone on the planet. And when we get to Heaven, we are going to be blown away by Jesus' joy.

He's defeated Satan.

He's conquered death, hell, and the grave.

He's redeemed us through His blood; bought us our salvation.

He's given us eternal life.

He's preparing a place for us right now in Heaven.

And He's reigning over all the universe.

If there is one thing He is not, He's not SAD. He's GLAD. He is overflowing with superabundant JOY.

And get this: the same joy Jesus has, He wants you to have. He wants you to have His joy in your life.

And that brings me to the 2nd payoff

2) You won't just be full of joy. Jesus says your joy will be FULL.

That means you will have joy to the max; you can't get any more joy, because you're 100% full of it.

And what that means for you here is this:

You won't need anyone or anything else to make you happy or give you joy, because JESUS IS ENOUGH.

C. And that's what Jesus wants YOU to get.

The more you allow Jesus' life to flow in you and through you, the more you experience His joy in you, and His joy will be enough.

That doesn't minimize the joy we should have in our loved ones.

But it means that you have discovered this:

The One who KNOWS you the most, LOVES you the most, and FILLS you the most with His joy.

And that's why you should want to become a fruit factory for Jesus.

Conclusion:

Today, Jesus has told us how to become a fruit factory.

But you can't become a fruit factory if you're not plugged into Jesus.

And that's what Jesus wants from you today.

He wants you to plug into His Word.

He wants you to plug into His life.

Because He wants to plug into YOURS.

Are you plugged into Jesus?

Is there anyone here today who needs to plug into Jesus?

It starts here at the altar on your knees.