

The Secrets Of A Productive Life

Living On A Margin – Part 8

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June 2-3, 2018

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:8 (NIV)

- Bearing fruit brings
- Bearing fruit shows
- God wants me to bear

“You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last!” John 15:16 (NIV)

- Bearing fruit is the purpose
- A truly productive life is one

4 KINDS OF FRUIT

1. The fruit of
2. The fruit of (9 character qualities)
3. The fruit of
4. The fruit of

The seriousness of not bearing fruit:

Jesus said “. . . I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this tree and still haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?” Luke 13:7 (NIV)

4 SECRETS OF A PRODUCTIVE LIFE

1. I MUST _____

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes – its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought, and it never fails to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV)

“The righteous cannot be uprooted.” Proverbs 12:3 (NIV)

HOW CAN YOU GROW DEEP ROOTS?

“They find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.” Psalm 1:2-3 (TEV)

“Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught.” Col. 2:6-7 (TEV)

2. I MUST _____

This is living with margin!

PARABLE OF THE SEED & SOILS: “The seed is the Word of God... The seed that falls among weeds stands for those who hear, but the worries and riches and pleasures of this life crowd in and choke them, and their fruit never ripens.” Luke 8:14

Example of Weeds: Luke 14:16-20

“They all began, one after another, to make excuses.” vs. 18

“The first one said, ‘I have bought a field and must go and look at it . . .’” vs. 18

“Another one said, ‘I have bought five pairs of oxen and am on my way to try them out . . .’” vs. 19

“Another one said, ‘I have just gotten married, and for that reason I cannot come.’” vs. 20

3. I MUST _____

Jesus: “I am the True Vine and my Father is the gardener. He lops off every branch that doesn’t produce. And he prunes those branches that bear fruit for even larger crops!” John 15:1-2

Never confuse _____ with _____.

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)

4. I MUST _____

“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. He who loves his life will lose it . . .” John 12:24-25

Jesus: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. But apart from me you can do nothing!” John 15:5 (NIV)