

The Fruit of the Root

By Pastor Marvin R. Barham

Jude 1:11-13 *11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

A.W. Tozer stated, "If we are alert enough to hear God's voice we must not content ourselves with merely 'believing' it... Commandments are to be obeyed, and until we have obeyed them we have done exactly nothing at all about them. And to have heard them and not obeyed them is infinitely worse than never to have heard them at all."¹

I see that God is moving in His church today. God is moving but not His people. He is sounding an alarm, a great call to not just restore the New Testament church in formality but for a people who embrace and walk in the Spirit of the New Testament. We have come from dark ages to enlightenment then to fundamentalism and even spiritual liberalism but we have yet to embrace a life transforming, culture reforming habitation of the very Spirit of God in our daily lives. We have welcomed good living in place of real life. We have become satisfied with a commonplace level of spiritual experience with an Almighty God.¹

I find so many in the church today who come to Christ, or at least to church. No, many do not even come to church. Have they come to Christ? Can you come to church and not have come to Christ? Can you come to Christ but negate the church? Is the church even relevant to our life with Christ? The Scripture says that a husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He loved the church so much that He gave His life on a cross. So are we to love the church with an unselfish devotion? Who then is the church? What is the church?

The church is not an institution. It is not the walls of structures made with the hands of man. It is the fellowship of those who are united in the Spirit of Christ which gave all of Himself for a new and better covenant that we might be saved and redeemed to righteous relationship with our Creator. This you must love as Christ loved. This you must have an unselfish devotion to. This you cannot forsake the assembly of. For this is where the old roots of an old you must die and new roots must bud forth and begin to grow deep.

All too many come to Christ, they come into the church but they stop short of a true and in-depth relationship with the Father. They see and hear the extravagant claims we make of ourselves as believers in Christ but if they compared them with our actual daily spiritual experience they would be sorely disenchanted. They would find that sadly there is a serious contradiction between what we tell ourselves we are in Christ and what in reality we really are. We have accepted Christ then substituted apologetic, motivational logic for real life and feel good, politically correct doctrine for real spiritual experience.¹

Where is the passionate yearning for divine reality?¹ Daily experiencing God in divine reality can only come when the roots of your life grow deep in pursuit of God; When those roots grow strong in His Word; they wrap themselves around the Word and daily feed off of it and real life of the Spirit of Christ is pulsating through those roots. Those roots are going everywhere and are connected to a trunk that extends above and beyond what you physically cannot see; it transcends the physical and reaches into that place where eternal life flows continually through the branches feeding those roots until your spirit man partakes of the good fruit of which it has been lacking since the day of Adams disobedience, it partakes daily of the Spirit of God, the Tree of Eternal Life. It is only through the Tree of Life, the Spirit and the Word of God, that your tree, your life, might take root and bear fruit of righteousness.

According to the Horticultural Department of Colorado State University, “Soil compaction, change in soil depth and improper watering can injure roots, increasing stress and susceptibility to disease and Insects. To avoid root disease, maintain a healthy, vigorous environment around a tree. Once a root system is severely affected, the tree usually must be removed. Unhealthy practices must be avoided to ensure healthy growth of the tree’s root system.” 2

Mark 11:19-21 *19And when even was come, he went out of the city. 20And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.*

I have preached many times concerning the principle of truth that as true believers we must bear fruit in our lives. It is a truth that when the Master returns He will seek to find a people who are bearing fruit of righteousness. And there will be many who perceive they are bearing good fruit when in fact they are not. The question then begs, “How can I bear good fruit in my life?”

The fruit of the tree is reflective of its roots. In **Luke 3:8-10** (*8Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 9And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 10And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?*) The religious assumed that because they had genealogical roots in Abraham that they also had spiritual roots to the God of Abraham and thus the fruit of their lives must be righteous and acceptable to God. How wrong they were. The fruit of their spiritual lives was very displeasing to God and Christ pointed it out. Their spiritual fruit was unacceptable because their spiritual roots were in the legalistic works of self-righteousness not in the redeeming work of the Spirit and heart of Father God. They had spiritual knowledge but lacked transcendent understanding and revelation.

Bad roots produce bad fruit. Healthy roots produce healthy fruit. Dead roots produce no fruit and no roots produce no fruit at all. Only living healthy roots feeding daily on spiritually sound Words of God and growing in spiritually rich healthy soil around them can produce acceptable fruit of righteousness in Christ.

Matthew 13:18-23 *18Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

When you hear, don’t just hear but seek to understand and apply the word of the Kingdom to your life, not some day but immediately or the enemy will steal the word from your heart and steal your heart from the heart of Father. The seed of the Word of God will never even have chance to break forth any new life within your soul. And if your life is like the stone that exist but has no life in it, receive the word of the Kingdom with joy, but do not stop short of establishing good roots in your life that you may experience the divine reality of the life in Christ. If you do not pursue and commit to the consistent impartation and development of healthy spiritual roots where God has divinely placed you in righteous relationships then when struggles come your way and you are challenged to grow and bear righteous fruit you will not perceive it as such grace bestowed upon you but will instead be offended because you have solely grown bad roots of self-righteousness.

If there be any bad roots, hue them and grow good ones. If there be no roots, then start them today.