

## FRUIT OR NO FRUIT

Perth, N. B.,  
19-1-27

Read John IV., the Chapter.

Introduction: There is no such thing as blossoming, bearing lovely crops of green fruit—and bringing no fruit to perfection. (Luke 8:14). The foolish virgins, the man with one talent, those mentioned in Jude, as clouds without water, trees whose fruit withereth—without fruit—twice dead, plucked up by the roots, are all examples of this, and Paul himself said, I. Cor. 26 and 27, "So fight I, not as one that beateth the air, but I keep under my body and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached unto others, I myself should be a castaway."

If we look for the most precious words of all scripture, we may well choose those spoken by our Lord to His disciples, the last night He was with them. Here we find He warns them clearly of this very danger.

**"EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARETH FRUIT HE TAKETH AWAY."**

Are you same tonight, or comes that question to your Master, "Why cumbereth it to the ground?" Search your heart in the light of these words. Read them slowly and thoughtfully—in your heart are these fruits coming to perfection? Note them as they are mentioned:

Verse seven, answer to prayer, "WHAT YE WILL." Do you ask, and receive that? That is fruit, and He says in the next verse that the Father is glorified in our bearing MUCH FRUIT.

Read verse 9. Do you get that? As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you. Was ever word spoken, deeper and richer, and more tender? Now listen.... spoken in sweetest earnestness to our very heart.... continue ye in My love. Think, oh heart of mine.... what means that to thee? Am I tonight, abiding, continuing in His love?

If ye keep my commandments. Verse 10 gives the condition. . . Obedience.... "as I have" . . . the obedience of Christ. That is the condition of abiding in His love. Hear him say, "Not My words," "Not My works," "Not My time," "I do always those things which please him." "I came not to do mine Own will, but the will of Him that sent Me" . . . This path leads right on to the garden, and to the cross. Is that obedience in MY HEART TONIGHT? Am I a fruit bearing branch?

Measure the two kinds of joy found in the 11th verse: "My Joy" remaining in you, and "Your Joy" full. For His Joy we turn to Heb. 1:9, "Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity, therefore God, even thy God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." While in our hearts there is a secret compact with sin, or with the world, we may not expect His Joy in us. It is only when we swing out into uncompromising obedience unto Him that His joy remains in us, and our joy, as we thus abide in His wonderful love, is full. Have you this full, remaining joy tonight?

If ye keep My Commandments. This is my commandment, That ye love one another. Only the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit can enable us to measure up to these requirements for, listen to His next

words. . . As I have loved you. That ye love one another as I have loved you. Never can divine love burn in a human heart save as the Holy Spirit of God burns it in. We may not hope to love, as He loved till we have His Spirit in our hearts, in His fullness. Then, this result must follow as the day the night.

Read on: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." In these words we see the shadow of the cross lie heavy on his heart that night. In them we hear the pulse beat of that great love which died for us. . . . and He is expecting to find that same brand of love in our hearts. Hear Moses plead: "If not. . . blot I pray Thee my name from the book which Thou hast written." That is the fruit the Master is looking for tonight.

We find in this a fellowship with Him, which can be gained in no other way. God talked to Moses as a man to his friend. . . . Jesus says here: "Ye are My friends IF. Are you friends with Jesus tonight?"

Now another of these wonderful fruits follow. . . in this fellowship we learn His will. Paul calls us to "present your bodies a living sacrifice (deeded over to Him, and abandoned to His control) holy and acceptable to God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Do you know His will?"

The results of this kind of a life are sure to follow. They are these: First: We are one with Him in our alienation from the world. . . it will love us no more than it loved the Christ who indwells us.

Second: The Indwelling Comforter "shall Testify of Me," and "Ye also shall bear witness." Have men today "Taken Knowledge" of you, that you have been with Jesus?

If you can open your heart to the search light of the Holy Spirit, and successfully pass on each of these tests, well: You are a fruit-bearing branch, and may expect some purging.

If you find a lack here or there, beware, for **EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT BEARETH NOT FRUIT HE TAKETH AWAY.**

What are you going to do about it? Do you know that after reading this if you let the matter slide, and pay no heed to the Word of God, you simply cut yourself off.

FAITH SANDERS.

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland Mission Station, Natal,

December 26th, 1926

Dear Homeland Friends:

About six hundred were here yesterday at our Christmas feast. In our nearby gum-tree grove we held the service that, we trust, will bear fruit to the glory of God.

This afternoon's communion service was in the same grove, as our Church has become too small for the increasing congregations. About three hundred were here today. Twenty-seven happy converts were baptized and received into Church fellowship, while fifteen infants were brought to the Lord by their parents. The "Church babies," as we call them, will,

most likely, all ask for Christian baptism when old enough. We were glad to see so many young men and children among today's additions.

One interesting feature in our first service was the testimonies of the twenty odd candidates. The first called upon were the nine brought by Jesina, from her section, across the Pivaan. Then followed the cripple brought by Josefa. Brought literally in his own donkey cart. The wagon road was so roundabout that the distance covered was nearly thirty miles. Whereas the foot path is less than fifteen. There were, next, two from George's outpost, five from Jostina's, three from the Sterritt Sisters, one from Albertina's and four from Meli's.

From our outpost, just beyond Paulpietersburg, thirty odd miles, came Alfred with nine of his flock. They followed with their testimonies. We finished up with some young men who were just home from work in distant towns, Durban and Johannesburg.

The Church was thus getting acquainted with her new children, and saying, "Welcome home" to others. Such meetings go a long way in cementing all our outpost members into one grand family.

In our second service God gave victory in His own wonderful way. We had been in prayer that our Church might not be influenced by a Zionist demonstration of Saturday. For they came in force to our feast and with distinguishing bands of blue and other colours, showing their rank or offices in their church. The Zulus are drawn by anything on such lines, so there was need of crying to the Lord. It was in our communion service that messages were given that went to counteract any wide influence from that source.

Our wonder working God is saying to us, "Ask and receive, that your joy may be full." When I awoke last night at one o'clock, and could not again get to sleep, I knew from oft repeated experience that the captain of the Lord's host had a message for me. It was, "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly." As the subject developed I lit my candle and made notes. Jesus, by his humble birth and early life taught the lesson of the text. Much of his verbal teaching was on the same line. All was against pride and seeking for honour from man.

When He returns all will be changed. He will then come in glory and assume His right to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. Then, too, his humble followers, shall be glorified and reign as kings and priests with Him.

Our distinguishing dress in this life is to be "clothed with humility," and have on white robes which is the righteousness of saints." Our "love one to another" and our "boldness" will show that we have been with Jesus and His own.

Any system of clothing or anything else that exalts self does not savour of the Spirit of Christ. He alone is to be exalted, and is the only true power to "draw all men."

His true followers are called and chosen and faithful and love not their lives unto the death. They overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony. Their victory is through self denial and self crucifixion. They

(Continued on page 7.)