



Being Fruitful
Series: Gospel of John, #28
John 15:1-17
Pastor Lyle Wahl
October 1, 2023

Theme: **God produces a bumper crop in healthy believers.**

God is the source of all real life and fruit.

1. Jesus, the *Vine*. (1, 5)
2. God the Father, the *Vinedresser*. (1-2)

To be a healthy believer requires:

1. Vital contact with God. (4-7)
2. Loving contact with God. (9)
3. Loving contact with others. (12-13, 17)

The bumper crop God produces in a healthy believer.

1. The fruit of effective prayer. (7, 16)
2. The fruit of plentiful and eternal results. (5, 8, 16)
3. The fruit of overflowing joy. (11)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read through John 15:1-17. Review the theme and outline on the other side of this sheet, as well as any notes you made on Sunday. Are you really dedicated to being spiritually healthy and fruitful?

Tuesday. There are many things we can do all on our own. But all true spiritual life and fruit has its source in God. As you read verses 1-5 and Jesus' statement that He is the vine, think again of how much of the plant the vine is. How much can you do apart from Him? Remember as well that God the Father's work as the *Vinedresser* is to maximize the fruitfulness of the vine.

Wednesday. Review the three basics Jesus gives us here about being spiritually healthy: vital contact with God (4-7), loving contact with God (9), and loving contact with others (12-13, 17). Conduct a personal spiritual health checkup by these criteria. Write down both the strengths and weaknesses you see. Confess your failures and neglect. Commit yourself to growth and health.

Thursday. It can be confusing to evaluate how spiritually *productive, fruitful* or *successful* we are. While what we find here does not include everything (*e.g.*, see Galatians 5:22-23), review the fruit of effective prayer (7, 16), plentiful and eternal results (5, 8, 16), and overflowing joy (11) which God produces in healthy believers. How fruitful are you? Identify any barriers and commit yourself to bringing glory to God by being healthy and fruitful.

Friday – Saturday. Sunday is Thanksgiving Sunday. We will take a break from our series in John and think about *Remember to Remember* from Deuteronomy 8:1-20. Read through these chapters in preparation for our time together.