

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30 KJV

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." Believing and obeying God's Word grants discernment and safety to the faithful. The words and lives of the faithful are a boon to all around them, because they reveal God. I say "words," because "God hath chosen the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." You will not be saved if you do not believe. Proclamation of God's Word is the vehicle of saving faith. "Faith cometh by hearing...the Word of God."



The words AND actions of the faithful must manifest God the Holy Spirit to others. "Meditate therein (in God's Word) day and night. Pray without ceasing. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." What you think is what you say and do. "Out of the heart the mouth speaketh. As he thinketh in his heart so is he." The Holy Spirit is the well of "living water" that flows out to the world around us and our brethren in Christ. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life." Our fruit-bearing is not of ourselves. The branch can only bear fruit if it abides in the vine. Jesus said, "I am the Truth. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I have chosen you...that ye should go and bring forth fruit." Believers are the branches that bear "the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance." A tree with fruit attracts the hungry. The empty branch draws no gatherers. Remember what Christ said? "If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." It is not us who draw men to Christ, but it is "Christ in us, the hope of glory" that wins the souls of the hungry. Christ came "to seek and to save that which was lost" in Eden; God's fellowship with man. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." What is in the mind of God? The Word of God.

The Spirit's Fruit within my soul,
Brings men to faith which makes them whole,
My dusty clay must bear its weight,
If I would change another's fate. ~CGP

To win souls you must be wise. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* To draw men to Christ you must lift Him up with the Words of Life, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The won soul is not our fruit: It is the "good soil" from which the fruit grows. The seed is the Word of God which falls "into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.'" We can only teach that which we know. No meditation and no study equals no knowledge. If I do not place the mind of Christ, the Word of God, in my soul through study and constant meditation, I will bear no fruit and win no souls. The "Gospel is...the power of God unto salvation to them that believe!" Charles Spurgeon said, "Thy soul must overflow if thou another's soul would reach; it takes the overflow of heart to give the lips full speech." What overflows from your heart?

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8 KJV