

ARE YOU BEARING FRUIT FOR THE 4 YEARS OF GRACE YOU'VE
BEEN GIVEN?

The Bible frequently compares believers to trees that bear fruit, emphasizing that each of us is expected to produce spiritual fruit for God. Jesus said, "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples" (John 15:8). However, Scripture also warns us that trees which do not bear fruit will be cut down, just as Jesus illustrated in Luke 13:6-9:

6 "He told this parable: A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none.

7 So he said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years I've come looking for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down. Why should it waste the soil?'

8 But the gardener answered him, 'Sir, leave it alone for one more year. I'll dig around it and fertilize it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, great! But if not, then cut it down.'

In this parable, the fig tree represents individuals who have been given ample time to repent and produce spiritual fruit. The vineyard owner

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symbolizes God the Father, while the gardener reflects the role of Jesus Christ, who intercedes on our behalf, asking for more time and grace. The fig tree was given three years to bear fruit, but it failed. The owner wanted it cut down, but the gardener requested a one-year extension, a year of grace.

This teaches us a profound lesson: God has graciously given us time to repent and bear fruit for His Kingdom. The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

God’s grace allows us time to change, but that grace is not unlimited. The Bible clearly warns that we are not guaranteed tomorrow: “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” (James 4:13-14).

The question, then, is: since you first heard the Word of God, have you borne fruit for Him? Or have you delayed, thinking, “Not yet, I still have time”? It is crucial to remember that today is the day of salvation, and if you continue to ignore God’s call, you may be living in an extended

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period of grace without realizing it. Ephesians 5:15-16 says, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

If you are living in this extended grace period, do not delay. 2 Corinthians 6:2 reminds us, "For he says, 'In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

If it has already been a long time since you first heard the gospel and there is no change in your life, you are in danger of being cut off, just like that fig tree. Romans 11:22 warns, "Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off." You may be resisting the Holy Spirit, hardening your heart, and disregarding the conviction that God is placing in your conscience.

It is only by God's mercy that you are still alive today and still have the opportunity to repent. Romans 2:4 reminds us that "God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance." But that kindness will not last forever. There will come a time when God's voice calling you to repentance will be silenced, and you will be left to your own devices.

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If you resist His call for too long, you may experience spiritual death. In Hebrews 6:4-6, we read: “For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.” This passage highlights the danger of rejecting God’s grace after experiencing it. If you harden your heart too much, there may come a point when you can no longer respond to His call.

Consider what happens to those who persist in sin without repentance. Even if you fall into sin—whether it’s drunkenness, immorality, or selfish indulgence—it won’t bother you. You’ll start dismissing the things of God, and the gospel will seem irrelevant to you. The more you resist, the harder your heart becomes, until eventually, you will be spiritually dead, unable to recognize the need for salvation.

The Bible speaks of those who refuse to repent as being spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1-3 says, “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our

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flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” Without repentance, we remain dead in sin, separated from God.

Ecclesiastes 11:3 says, “If a tree falls to the south or to the north, wherever it falls, there it will lie.” Once a tree is cut down, it cannot be moved. If you die in your sin, there will be no turning back. Hebrews 9:27 reminds us, “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”

- If you are cut down and fall into drunkenness, you will remain there until hell.
- If you are cut down and fall into sexual immorality, you will stay there until the day of judgment.
- If you are cut down and fall into a life of indulgence, you will stay there until hell.

Therefore, the Bible encourages us to bear fruit while we still can. God has given us grace, and we are called to respond by living lives that reflect His goodness and holiness. Matthew 3:8 calls us to “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” Let your life reflect the transformation that Christ has made in your heart.

Proverbs 28:13 reminds us, “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain

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mercy.” Repentance leads to life, while continuing in sin leads to destruction.

Romans 12:1 urges us to offer our bodies as “a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” Our lives are to be lived in a way that glorifies God and produces lasting fruit for His Kingdom.

Revelation 3:19 says, “Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

Let us use the grace God has given us wisely, by turning to Him, bearing fruit, and living in His will. Today is the day of salvation—don’t delay.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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