

The Lord placed each one of us on earth so that we may bear fruit, and there are two main kinds of fruit God expects from every believer.

1. The Fruit of Righteousness (Fruit of the Spirit)

The Bible teaches that believers are to bear fruit that reflects God's character, often called the Fruit of the Spirit:

“Being filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians 1:11

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”Galatians 5:22-23

These virtues together describe a life of holiness (sanctification). This fruit shows inner transformation produced by the Holy Spirit, not human effort alone (Romans 8:10; John 15:4-5).

2. The Fruit of God's Work (Kingdom Impact)

The second kind of fruit is the result of serving God, especially:

Leading people to Christ

Teaching the Word

Preaching the Gospel Shepherding and serving others

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”
— *Matthew 28:19*

This fruit reflects faithful stewardship of what God has entrusted to us.

Talents as a Biblical Picture of Fruitfulness

Scripture often represents these responsibilities and opportunities as “talents.” Jesus illustrated this clearly in the Parable of the Talents:

Matthew 25:14-30 (summary)

A master entrusted his servants with talents according to their ability.

Two servants invested what they received and produced more.

One servant buried his talent and produced nothing.

The faithful servants were praised:

“Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master.”

— Matthew 25:21

But the unfaithful servant was rebuked and judged.

“For to everyone who has, more will be given... but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”
— Matthew 25:29

A Deeper Meaning of “Talent”

While this parable certainly refers to spiritual gifts (teaching, prophecy, evangelism, shepherding—see Romans 12:6–8; Ephesians 4:11), it also carries a broader meaning:

What you HEAR is also a TALENT

Every time you hear the Word of God, a talent is sown into your heart.

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”
— Romans 10:17

God will require a return not only for what you were given, but also for what you did with what you heard.

The Parable of the Sower Explains This Clearly

Jesus explained this principle again in Matthew 13:1–23.

Some people:

Hear the Word but do not understand it → the enemy takes it away

Receive it with joy but have no root → they fall away

Hear it but are choked by worries and desires

Hear, understand, and bear fruit—30, 60, or 100 times more

Jesus concludes:

“For whoever has, to him more will be given... but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away.”

— Matthew 13:12

Why Jesus Taught in Parables

Jesus often spoke in parables intentionally.

Not everyone who heard Him was willing to seek understanding.

“Because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”

— *Matthew 13:13*

Only His disciples came to ask for explanation. They refused to bury the talent of what they heard. Instead, they sought understanding—and they grew spiritually.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find.”

— *Matthew 7:7*

Practical Application: How Talents Are Buried Today

Many people hear God’s Word repeatedly but:

Do not apply it

Do not seek understanding

Ignore conviction

This is equivalent to burying the talent.

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

— *James 1:22*

When God convicts someone about sin, holiness, obedience, or truth, that conviction is a talent. God expects growth, repentance, and fruit.

“God commands all people everywhere to repent.”

— *Acts 17:30*

A Serious Warning—and a Promise

Jesus gives both a warning and a promise:

“Pay attention to what you hear... With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and more will be added.”

— *Mark 4:24-25*

Those who respond receive more light

Those who ignore lose even what they had

But to those who hunger to obey:

“If anyone is willing to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God.”

— John 7:17

Final Exhortation

Guard carefully what you hear, and even more carefully how you respond to it.

Do not allow the enemy to steal the Word planted in your heart. Produce fruit—both in holy living and in faithful service—so that when the Lord comes, He will find evidence of growth.

“My Father is glorified by this: that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”

— John 15:8

Prayer

May you begin to act upon everything you have heard, so that

when the Lord returns, He will find fruit that glorifies His name.
God bless you. ☐

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