

# Bear Fruit With Perseverance

Luke 8:4-15

## Introduction

**Luke 8:4-15 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup>And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup>“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup>And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” <sup>9</sup>And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup>he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’

<sup>11</sup>Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that **THEY MAY NOT BELIEVE AND BE SAVED.** <sup>13</sup>And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing **FALL AWAY.** <sup>14</sup>And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup>As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, **HOLD IT FAST** in an honest and good heart, and **BEAR FRUIT WITH PATIENCE.**

**The fact that we are here proves that we are not the wayside soil. Nor we are the shallow, rocky soil, for at least up to this point we have not fallen away. But the question remains, are we the thorny soil? The difference between the thorny soil and the good soil is holding fast the word and thus bearing fruit with patience (perseverance, endurance).**

**Are you the thorny soil? What does bearing fruit look like?**

## I. Praise God Thankfully

**Hebrews 13:13-16 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.** <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**THORNS: You no longer prepare well for worship and Bible study, nor do you experience a nearness to God in worship. Instead, food, recreation and entertainment are more enjoyable and occupy more of your focus than worship and prayer.**

## II. Abide in Jesus, the Word

**John 15:1-8 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>**I am the vine; you are the**

**branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.** <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>**By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**

**1 Peter 2:1-3 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, **long for the pure spiritual milk**, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**THORNS: You no longer do much Bible study or meditation to establish your focus on the will of God in your life. Instead, you abide in YouTube videos, Snapchat, and Netflix shows.**

### III. Grow in Character

**Galatians 5:22-25 (ESV)** <sup>22</sup>But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

**2 Peter 1:5-11 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, **they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, **for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.** <sup>11</sup>For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**THORNS: You no longer do much introspection and evaluation to identify your weaknesses and work on them. Instead, your primary focus is on making money, enjoying food and watching entertainment.**

### IV. Serve Others

**Colossians 1:9-12 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

**Hebrews 6:9-12 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup>Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. <sup>10</sup>For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake **in serving the saints**, as you still do. <sup>11</sup>And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup>**so that you may not be sluggish**, but imitators of those who through

faith and patience inherit the promises.

**THORNS: You no longer make much effort to identify ways to help others. Instead, you stay busy with a wide variety of your own interests and are content to remain on the outside.**

## V. Give Generously

**Romans 15:25, 28 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup>At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. .... <sup>28</sup>When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected (**sealed to them this fruit - NKJV**), I will leave for Spain by way of you.

**Philippians 4:15-17 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup>And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. <sup>16</sup>Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but **I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.**

**2 Corinthians 8:3-5 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup>and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

**THORNS: You no longer make sacrifices of money or time to support the preaching of the gospel. Instead, you're giving less now because you bought that new car or cell phone you wanted.**

## VI. Invite Others to Seek Jesus

**Romans 1:13 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup>Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), **that I might have some fruit among you also**, just as among the other Gentiles.

**John 1:40-42 (ESV)** <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup>He brought him to Jesus....

**2 Corinthians 5:10-11 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup>Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men....

**THORNS: You no longer make requests of God to put seekers in your life. Instead, you talk with friends and neighbors about everything except Jesus.**

## Conclusion:

**Luke 8:15 (ESV)** As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, **HOLD IT FAST** in an honest and good heart, and **BEAR FRUIT WITH PATIENCE.**