

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY

Scripture:

Psalm 1:1-3 *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

Luke 6:46-49 *"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

Introduction

Christians have an awesome responsibility to Jesus Christ. It starts with this simple matter called obedience. However, we cannot simply attend church, read a few Bible verses, listen to a few good messages on tape or cd and call that obedience. The Bible is pretty clear on this matter of obedience.

Our scripture states that obedience means paying attention to the Word of God and then doing something about what we have heard or read. Furthermore, it appears that as the truth of the word of God permeates our being we will, as a result, bring forth fruit. Furthermore, it appears from extensive research of the word of God that fruitfulness means multiplication.

I. Being fruitful means that multiplication is taking place.

Genesis 1:28 *"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

- A. From the very beginning it was God's intention to have a conquering man in the earth.
- B. God is raising up a people (The Glorious Church) that understands the need to go forth and conquer the spirits that have captivated the hearts of men and women in order that those men and women might be freed from bondage.

Ephesians 6:12 *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

Before the advent of the tape recorder, a man bought a machine that enabled him to cut his own records on discs. He'd listened to Winston Churchill's famous speech over the radio and recorded it. But the record cracked, and if you played it you heard Churchill saying, "Our aim is victory, victory, victory, victory!" When you read the book of Revelation, you seem to hear the word, like the refrain of a great hymn, over and over in the background: "Victory! Victory! Victory!"

-- Robert C. Shannon, *1000 Windows*, (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997).

- C. The earth cannot be filled with Children of God if we do not reproduce ourselves.
- D. Multiplication means the reproduction of that which already exist, but in greater numbers. Romans 8:28-29
- E. Abraham was blessed by God with a blessing that included multiplication.
Genesis 17:1-6 *"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ²And I will make*

My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.”³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.”

1. God is not intimidated by your age, background, reputation or former beliefs. He can and will still use you for His purposes.
2. If you will walk with Him in obedience, the result will be the multiplication of the Kingdom of God.
3. God is looking for those who are willing to be fathers (mentors) to those who come after.

II. Discipleship is marked by fruitfulness and multiplication.

John 15:8 *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*

- A. So you will be my disciple. It seems that we only qualify as disciples when we bring forth fruit He is looking for.
- B. At the end of Christ’s earthly ministry, He told us what kind of fruit we were to bring to Him.

Matthew 28:18-20 *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

1. Notice our responsibility is to reproduce ourselves, make disciples, not simply to prophesy, heal the sick, preach a good message, etc.
2. We may do all these things, but they cannot replace our obedience to the central theme.
3. If He is with us till the end of the age, it must mean that each succeeding generation of disciples have the same anointing and same ministry of reconciliation as the previous one.
4. If we trust in His authority given to us, we will believe for the multiplication to take place, no matter what the ministry He has called us to.

III. Every ministry activity must be bathed in prayer.

Colossians 4:2-4 *“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”*

- A. Here’s a call to the intercessors to be vigilant and not grow weary in well doing.

To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.

-- Karl Barth in Prayer. Christianity Today, Vol. 34, no. 4.

- B. Prayer is both a support and a covering for the work of ministry.
- C. We are dependent upon the prayers of the intercessors.

Ephesians 6:18-20 *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—¹⁹and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

- D. Intercessors are a part of the multiplication process. They are fruitful as they pray multiplication through to its intended outcome.

IV. Will you answer the call of the spirit to be fruitful and multiply today?

- A. The call to make disciples. Our resource to effectively do this is our cell ministry. Wow, what an opportunity. A ready made vehicle.
- B. The call to prayer. Intercessors are needed for every Kingdom ministry and ministry leader.