



Hunger For Truth

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Greetings

Hello and welcome to another issue of Hunger For Truth. As you can see the format has once again been revised. This will make space for larger articles and also makes it much easier to produce the newsletter. Praise God!

This issue includes a new, very powerful and thought provoking devotional from Andrew Lacroix as well as the continuation of the study on the word 'alone'. I also am introducing a new column coming soon called "Reader's Corner" (See page 6 for further details).

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at www.studytoanswer.net.

It is my desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for me. I greatly appreciate your comments and I praise God for each and every one of you.

Daily Fruits (By: Andrew Lacroix) (John 15:1-8)

From our text, we can clearly see what God desires of each and every one of His children. There are several types of fruit bearers. Some bear no fruit. Some bear a little fruit. Some bear more fruit. Yet still some bear much fruit. I'd like to examine just which one of these four types of fruit bearers we are. The ones who bear no fruit are ones whom are either just in it for salvation or are not saved altogether. In the first case, these will not lose their salvation, but they will have no rewards in Heaven. However, it can also be true that no fruit bearers may never have possessed salvation, and thus will be likened unto the branches that are gathered and burned (v.6). If you have not borne any fruit, I ask that you really test your salvation (cf. Phil. 2:12) to see if it be so, and if not, believe and be saved right now! The ones that bear little fruit are more than likely the "Sunday Morning Christians"; they certainly are for us, however, they're not jumping at serving opportunities in their local church. Outside of the church very little can be done in the way of personal walks and works and that is sad. They fail to seek eternal treasure and are not as fruitful as they can and should be. This is the "Thirty-fold Christian" Christ spoke of in Matthew's account of the parable of the soils (13:8).

The ones that bear more fruit are also faithful, outreaching with the saving Gospel, getting involved with the assembly, and have a deep, close walk with the Lord. Even still, there appears to be the "much fruit" bearers (v. 5). These, I believe, will be similar to those in the pastorate (and his wife), missionaries, evangelists and the like. They all just overflow with fruit.

How is our daily fruit bearing? Are some days as consistent as others? Even a little fruit makes a difference. Let's say you buy two bananas at the grocery store. One weighs a quarter pound; one weighs a half pound. The ½ pound banana is twice as much and heavy as the ¼ pound banana. It had longer to be on the root. The longer we stay attached to the True Vine (v.1), the more fruit we'll bear. May I make the claim that one letter makes a difference? For example, there is a one letter difference between *waste* and *waist*. There is also a one letter difference between *fit* and *fat*. Enough of the weight jokes. One more illustration: a lady in Spain sent a letter to a grower requesting 1,000 naranjos (oranges). However, her handwriting was fairly intelligible, and her thousand naranjos became naranjas. Imagine her surprise at 1,000 orange trees! One letter in God's Word certainly means a lot. Christ said in Matt. 5:18: "For verily I say unto you, till Heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled". This means not one minute difference shall be changed, and God preserved His Words to be all He has intended them to be! God's Word doesn't need to be changed; we need to change, Amen! The one letter I believe will make a difference in our fruit is the letter "w". Consider with me four ways we can increase our fruit. Increase your fruit in the way we:

Worship. I will distinguish this from point number two as this being what we are in church. The Psalmist said, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Ps. 122:1). Are we glad to enter God's House? Attitude determines everything! Paul said, "For I think that God hath set forth the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men" (I Cor. 4:9). Our lives, in church most certainly, are front and center. Are we getting ready for "just another service" or are we excited to see what the Lord will do in our midst? Churches get visitors pretty frequently.



Proverbs 7:2
Matt. 5:6
John 8:32
II Timothy 3:16-17
Heb. 4:2



"Let us Hunger For Truth"

Many of them have probably never seen how an independent Baptist church ought to be! I have personally visited churches where as soon as I walk in, people are introducing themselves and even the Pastor gets involved. What a testimony! They are obviously ready to share and promote what God has done with their lives should an unsaved person walk in there. I have also visited churches where everyone carried on their own conversations and visitors were ignored. I'm not being critical here, but I think if you don't recognize someone, go up and say hello. I have no problems with conversations; but maybe we can converse with unfamiliar faces, Amen? That might be the only opportunity we get to make an impact in one's soul and life!

How about our singing? Is it done with a heart flowing with praise for the Lord? This is not asking about how good you sing; this is asking where your heart is at? We can be intent on applying what the preacher says from the Bible and confessing faults at the invitation. We can encourage others to have a closer walk and that will bear fruit in more than one life! Churches have missions conferences, and the special speakers will bear their burdens for their field in earnest prayer that you will help them, but also lay the importance on reaching your Jerusalem. No matter how we feel about certain problems in our lives, we can make a difference in daily fruit bearing in the way we worship.

Walk. This is talking about outside of the church. The lights are off, and now we are either with our families or alone with God. Are we committed like we say we are in church, diligently reading, studying, and rightly dividing the Word of Truth (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15)? Do I give myself to "die daily" and take up my cross and follow exactly what God has for me? We had once lived where we couldn't change a thing if our lives depended on it. However, "now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you" (v.3). God got rid of the infiltrating filth that once rampaged our lives and now allows us to bear much fruit as long as we abide in Him. Failure to deny the flesh allows us to be given over unto sin and therefore robs God of His desire to see us have much fruit. Do we have a testimony outside of the home and church? Is it evidenced in our children? Have our children accepted Christ as Lord and Savior? If you think we're only on display inside the walls of the assembly, think again. Do we have family devotions? If you're single, are you and I still giving time to hear about God's Word and Heaven and witnessing for Him? Our walks are just as important, if not more, as our worship in the pillar and ground of the truth.

Matthew 7:16-20 serves as a warning. As good trees, desire good fruit, that we can be used again and again. Yet there may be some reading this that is still dead in trespasses and sins (cf. Eph. 2:1) and living off a false profession. The Bible gives a warning: every tree that bringeth forth not good fruit will be cast into the fire (v. 19). You can have false good fruit and proclaim to be saved, but you will be known by your fruit (v. 20). It will come out at the Judgment. If this be the case, make today the day you turn your life over to Jesus Christ. Christian, if we are not continually grafted into the True Vine, we will not bear fruit and our works will be judged too (cf. I Cor. 3:9-15). Let's strive to improve our fruits in the way we walk, knowing what's ahead.

Wear out our knees. I Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing". A great way to increase our daily fruit is by being on our knees in our prayer closets (cf. Matt. 6:6). Every mid-week service, churches seek God's face regarding individual and congregational burdens; and we have a lot of them, but do we wear out our knees as often as we can or willing to? James 5:16 attests to prayer. The 12 apostles at Jerusalem said, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word" (Acts 6:4). Other passages speak even further of the need of intercessory prayer. Prayer brings us a bigger burden for the lost. Friends and families are going to die without Christ, but if we fail to pray for them, we accomplish nothing either. Winning souls is wise, Solomon told us (cf. Prov. 19:30); but praying for those we witness to is just as wise. Enough weeping may just move the God of Heaven to bring one we witnessed to salvation. How about those who are sick? Prayer brings us a bigger burden for sick saints. Many of us have been in other churches and have heard of those constantly in pain and suffering, but it is all in stride. The testimony of one such saint I know just moves me. She has an unsaved husband and she has undergone a number of surgeries and now lives in constant pain. If I were in that type of situation, I'd beg the Lord to take me home! Christians, though, ought to be like rubber, and not glue. Whatever gets thrown our way, whether it be sickness, unkind words, lost job, or anything that can negatively affect our fruit, should be bounced off and not stuck like it usually does (oh, to live that more often!) Do you know how this lady does it? She knows whom she has believed (cf. 2 Tim. 1:12). She desires that her conversation and submission to her husband will someday lead him to Christ. I'd even like to think right now, perhaps as you are reading this, she is praying for her husband over any needs she has (cf. I Pet. 3:1).

I understand, some people have knee problems, and some people have three knees. You don't have to be on your knees for the Lord to hear your prayer. In our text, Christ says: "Ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you". He promises to answer our prayer. Prayer answers may not be immediate as in Daniel's case (cf. 10:3, 12-13), but it will be answered as long as we not ask amiss (cf. James 4:3) or regard iniquity in our hearts (cf. Ps. 66:18). In John 14:13-14, Christ says: "And whatsoever ye shall

ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.” The promises only relate to what definitely is in the realm of God and is for His honor and glory. Praying for a million bucks is probably going to be left unanswered. However, asking that God will help you to bear more fruit is a better intercessory offering to Him. Daily worship and daily walks plus daily wearing out our knees will most definitely increase our fruit.

Witness. All my previous points leads up to this most important one: why we are here in the first place. Someone at one point or another told you about what Jesus did for them. Someone was burdened for your soul. Now we are to turn around, be burdened for others, and be prepared to daily witness. Look at verse three in our text again. As a result of applying God’s Word to our sin-sick souls, we have been saved and God has given us His desires instead of all of us with just our own fleshly, wicked, and worldly desires. As we pray for people to be saved, let us boldly step up to witness now more than ever. If you’re not in the practice of it already, leave a tract where you’ve been or are. A bench at the mall, a restaurant (as long as you and your party have had a godly testimony), wherever it may be, present Christ. Churches keep Gospel tracts either near the doors or in an announced place. Tracts often open with a question to provoke one’s mind to the thought of eternity. One such one I use has this question: “Where will you be in a thousand years?” No one in the Bible, save our Lord Jesus Christ, lived 1,000 years. One made it to 969, but that’s still 31 short. We will all die and we will all spend eternity somewhere. Friend, do you know where you will be in 1,000 years? I know I do, and it’s only by the grace of God I know where I’m going.

Having that question spinning in your mind all day will increase your burden for the lost. Those whom we have witnessed to need to see we have changed and God will do the convicting. They see how we have turned around, and it smites them. I was convicted by little children living for God nearly four years ago. I was smitten by how God changed their lives and so can people in our churches. Some use John/Romans; others use other materials. As long as it emphasizes the Word of God, it can work, because faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (cf. Rom. 10:17).

Lord, give us a fresh burden to have more fruit in our worship of you, in our walk with you, in the way we wear out our knees, and the way we witness of what you did for us. If you still have not accepted Christ, call on Him to be saved while you still can.

Andrew D. Lacroix --5/12/12

“Alone” - Part 3

By: Craig Glickman

This is the continuation of a long, yet informative study on every appearance of the word “alone” in the Bible. This word appears 106 times in the King James Version. For sake of space, I will show only the reference but I encourage you to take your Bible and read the passages.

1 Chronicles 29:1 - In this passage David encourages the people to give to the work of God’s kingdom and emphasizes in this verse how God had specifically chosen out Solomon alone over anyone else (Please read Chapter 28).

Ezra 6:7 - This passage is based on a decree by King Darius. He tells Tatnai, Shethar-bonai and the Apharsachites to let the work of the house of God alone and let the governor and elders of the Jews build it. (Read verse 8-22 for how God blessed this decision.)

Nehemiah 9:6 - In this passage Ezra is praying to the Lord and is praising the LORD Jehovah who ALONE is Jehovah God. There is only one God and that is Jehovah God, the LORD Himself. Ezra clearly believed it as he praised His LORD and Creator in this passage. Are you and I praising our LORD and Creator daily and often?

Esther 3:6 - This passage relates to Mordecai and when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not nor revered Haman at the king’s command (vs. 2). Haman devises an evil plot to destroy the Jews, with emphasis on destroying Mordecai alone as he prepared a gallows to hang Mordecai. Haman later ends up dying on his own gallows (7:10) and his own children (9:10-14)! Just like Haman, be sure your sin will find you out (Num. 32:23)!

Job 1:15-19 - In this passage which is shortly after the Lord allows Satan to tempt Job a messenger comes to Job to tell him Job's servants have been slain and only he alone has escaped. Then in verse 16, another messenger tells Job that he alone has escaped a great fire that burned up and consumed some of the servants and Job's sheep (*possibly lightning*)! And again in verse 17 as the previous messengers were probably still speaking another messenger comes and tells Job that the Chaldeans came and stole his camels and slain even more of Job's servants! Amazingly again, only one was allowed to escape to tell Job. Finally in verse 18-19, another comes while the other messengers were speaking and tells Job that his son's and daughters were killed when a house collapsed from a great wind (*possibly a tornado*) and he alone was able to escape to tell Job. Dear reader, can you imagine what must have been going thru Job's mind at this point? Wow! Amazingly, at this point Job had not become discouraged nor did he become prideful in his righteousness as he did later in the book (vs. 20-22). Thankfully, Job repents of this sin late in the book and God forgave him and by His grace blessed Job with double what he had before!

Sing His Praises

Psalm 66:2

Jesus Never Fails

This great old hymn is not often sung but is very special to my heart because I know for sure that no matter how much I fail, no matter how much man fails me, no matter what happens in life, God makes no mistakes. He is in Control and I will trust fully in Him for Jesus never, ever fails! Amen! Praise God!

So many souls have tested Him throughout the course of time. So many still reach out to Him with broken hearts and minds. And every one of them will say, Without exception that they find... Jesus never fails...

Even in the days of old, He brought His people through. And then He came to show His love and died for me and you. Then He rose again to prove, That every story has been true... Jesus never fails...

Chorus

Jesus never fails. Jesus never fails. You might as well get thee behind me, Satan. You cannot prevail, because Jesus never fails.

Sometimes this world brings trouble I find so hard to bear. I know I could not make it without Jesus being there. It's so encouraging to know, How ever deep we're in despair... Jesus never fails.

So what can I do to prove to you, tell me how can you deny? No untold facts, no mysteries, it's all so cut and dried. On the witness stand of your life, I'll be the first to testify... Jesus never fails!

Repeat Chorus

I know... *Repeat Chorus*

You might as well get thee behind me, Satan. You cannot prevail, because Jesus never fails. Never fails...

Stop and Think

“My chief concern is to try to be an humble, earnest Christian.”

Robert E. Lee, 1807 – 1870

Commanding General of the CSA

Quotes

-- "Let the glorious light of God's word blind you to sin"

-- "The will of the Father is the originating cause of our salvation, the worth of the Son's redemption its meritorious cause and the work of the Spirit its effectual cause."

-- "Repentance is a change of mind of a very deep and practical character, which makes the man love what once he hated, and hate what once he loved." -- (Charles Spurgeon)

-- "There is one case of death-bed repentance recorded--the penitent thief--that no one should despair; and only one, that no one should presume" -- (Augustine)

-- "To repent is to adopt God's viewpoint in place of your own." -- (William Temple)

☺ Children for Christ ☺

Memory Verse: [1 John 4:8](#) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Fill in the blank on these Bible names and notice the secret about them:

1. S _ _ M _ _ N

2. S _ _ _ O _ _ O N

3. S _ _ _ U _ _ L

4. S _ _ M _ _ O N

5. S _ _ T _ _ N

6. S _ _ _ L

7. S _ _ _ P H E N

8. S _ _ _ O M E

9. S _ _ _ A H

10. S _ _ _ D _ _ A C H

What is the secret of these 10 names? _____

Praises

- I praise God for the powerful preaching, fellowship, edification and encouragement from the recent missions conference at H.B.C. (5/6-5/9) *(Sorry, this was accidentally left out of 5/15 issue)*
- His great provision of all our daily needs

Prayer Requests

- More fruit in my life and yours. Bearing fruit and denying self is simply our reasonable service.
- Salvation of Mike, Debbie, Tom and Gary
- A day shift position for the HFT editor
- Salvation of my sister Wendy, nephew Jacob and aunt's Sybil and Bernice.
- Outreach of Heritage Baptist Church
- Needs of Heritage Baptist Church Body
- Missionaries across the globe
- Unspoken request for HFT editor

Reader's Corner

Dear reader, this is a new column I felt led to create starting in July Lord willing that will be on the last page of the newsletter. If you and your family have been blessed, edified and encouraged by Hunger For Truth and its articles, studies, devotionals, etc., as the Lord leads, please e-mail me with "readers corner" in the subject line. If this is you, I'd love to hear from you! I will post your comments in future issues of Hunger For Truth. Please don't feel obligated to reply. Thank you so much and may God richly bless you and your families.

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman who is a member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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*If you wish to subscribe to H.F.T., or you have a praise, prayer request, study, devotional or article you would like posted in Hunger For Truth, please e-mail me at [svtdtday@yahoo.com](mailto:svtdtday@yahoo.com)*

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*Thank you for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*His Servant,  
Craig Glickman*