

Teach-In No. 5 From Desire, Discipline and Faith Dated November 19 1990. Unsure when shared with SCF\*

There is a purpose for everything, every person that the Lord has created; we can see in the beginning that all creation was to fulfill a particular role. For instance, the light was created to remove darkness; the sea to contain the fish; man and woman to reproduce after their own kind.

### **Genesis 1 verse 28**

*God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Also we can see that God provided the means for this fruitfulness to be possible, He created man out of the dust, He provided the woman to be man's helpmate not to satisfy the man's needs only, but to fulfill His own holy purposes. Within the Lord's provision there were plants yielding the seed of the fruit of the tree and within the commandments given to Adam, the opportunity for Adam to be obedient or disobedient to those commands. Adam missed it, Eve missed and we too can miss it if we are not aware of the purpose to which we are called. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they committed the original sin.

### **Romans 6 verse 23**

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The New Testament is is very specific about this. This principle of obedience continues to bear the fruit of life today and disobedience brings physical death for the unsaved person and spiritual death for those of us who are saved through the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. What kind of fruit is God expecting from our lives? One word describes it - righteousness. The natural man or woman will find it impossible to bear the fruit of righteousness, the spiritual man or woman will find it hard but not impossible.

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The important issues are:

1. Our soil, that is our hearts.
2. Our roots, that is our foundation.

Let us look at some scriptures and some examples of a practical nature.

### **Proverbs 12 verse 2-3**

*A good man will obtain favor from the LORD, but He will condemn a man who devises evil. 3 A man will not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will not be moved.*

Wickedness is the opposite of righteousness, our roots are to be in Jesus then we shall be fruitful. What is wickedness? Murder, stealing, rape? Yes, but but these are some of the generally acknowledged fruits of wickedness. What we need to see is the more deceptive kinds of wickedness that in fact make us like Adam and Eve, disobedient and yielding the same fruit. We can see the simplistic and real issues that face us on a day to day basis.

### **Ephesians 5 verse 25-27**

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.*

### **Ephesians 5 verse 22-24**

*22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.*

Single persons are to be subject to our perfect Husband, Jesus Christ. He will love you with an everlasting kindness and have compassion on you.

When we think about submission, what do we feel about it? Does it conjure up being imprisoned, in fear or loss of free will and choice?

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What we are all being asked to do is to obey Jesus. Jesus only gave two commandments in the New Testament.

### **Matthew 22 verse 34-40**

*But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. 35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."*

Jesus said that there were two things here that were righteous acts and were pleasing to God. The fruit that God seeks in my life, first and foremost is my love. He will respond to that love and I shall bear the fruit of His response to my love. Then, and only then can I undertake the second commandment.

### **Matthew 5 verse 16-17**

*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. 17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

Jesus intends that we understand, perfect and teach these things. Also that our righteousness is to become excellent, otherwise we shall not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Lets be practical again, I may see from the Word that God loves me. I can draw from the tree of knowledge of His love without ever having received that unconditional love without conditions. If I have not received it, then I only have human love to give in return.

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Unfortunately human love will not stand up under the pressures of human life. The kind of love to ask God for is expressed by Paul.

## **1 Corinthians 13 verse 4-7**

*Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

This is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is crucial that we understand the part that faith has to play in becoming more fruitful, we have a measure of faith and a measure of fruit. To reach our full potential we need to recognise where it is that we need help. It will be different perhaps, for each of us. We can use the check comparison below to help us to adjust our lives. Do not be condemned if you have areas of failure, we all have them.

### **God's Way**

God is patient, God is kind, God is not jealous, God doesn't boast, God is not arrogant, God doesn't act unbecomingly, God isn't selfish, God is not provoked, God is not vindictive, God doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, God rejoices over truth, God bears all things, God hopes all things, God endures all things, God is not envious, God does not hold grudges, God does not give us what we deserve, God forgives, God speaks words of life to us.

If you find any area in you that is in conflict with God's way, then ask Him to forgive you for your lack and by faith receive forgiveness and the lack that you have. Then move on into what He gives to you, by faith. Remember what faith is.

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## **Hebrews 11:1-3**

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

Be convinced that what you have asked for is what you said you will get, right now, then act as though it were true.

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