# **MUCH FRUIT**



*"If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.* 

By this my Father is glorified: that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15)

Much fruit?

Where is it?

Seems like I've spent all these years following Jesus, and still can't see any fruit.

Who said we would see fruit piling up before our eyes?

We will see our fruit at the appointed time.

For now, our fruit is piling up before the eyes of God alone.

### The fruit of prayer.



*"If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you."* 

If we are abiding in the Vine *we will be praying*---interceding for our loved ones, our neighbors, our enemies, world leaders, trouble-makers, refugees.

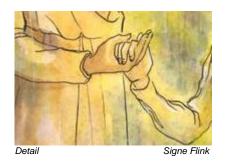
Rarely will we see the answers to these prayers.

Nor can we see how instantly and powerfully the Spirit of God visits those we pray for.

Not one of those prayers is wasted.

Nothing produces fruit for God's kingdom like prayer!

### Fruit from our words of encouragement.



## The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught,

that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary.

> Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

#### Isaiah 50

The power "to sustain with a word him that is weary" comes to us daily, as God "wakens our ear morning by morning".

Then we move out into the day and connect with people as they come across our path.

Sometimes it's a sustaining word for a weary soul. Sometimes it's a word of encouragement or a word of hope. Sometimes it's an introduction to Jesus himself. Or a simple, "Good morning!" Only heaven sees the fruit that flows from those words.

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So we leave it all to God, and give him thanks.

### Kingdom fruit from washing feet.

Simple service to our neighbor.

A visit.

A ride to the doctor.

A financial boost.



*"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me."* 

It's not how many souls we think we saved.

It's not how many sinners we brought to repentance.

### It's everything we do, done in thanksgiving and praise to God.



Praise the Lord for He is Good all the Time Signe Flink

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REB...August 2021 Featured Art: Signe Flink and detail from Jesus Washing Feet Ford Madox Brown in the public domain

Prayer- Gracious, wonderful Lord draw us to you so we can abide in you. May our ears be so tuned to your words and our hearts be so close to you that we can't help but carry your fruit. May this fruit include loving intercession for others, words of encouragement that do sustain the weary, and actions that express loving concern and bring relief that comes from your throne. As we do this, may our hearts and voices sing of who you are, of your loving, merciful nature and of your overwhelming kindness to us. Maranatha Mirror

