

2 Peter Series

Lesson #023

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Conditions for a Spiritually Fruitful Life

2 Pet. 1:8–9; Eph. 5:8–11; Gal. 5:16–25



Guard Against False Teachers

2 Pet. 1:3, “Since His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to *our* [physical] life and spiritual life, through the knowledge [*epignosis*] of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” ~RD

δύναμις *dunamis*

fem sing gen

**power, strength, might,
capability; omnipotence**

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**ζωή *zoe* fem sing acc life, living, way of life
εὐσέβεια *eusebeia* fem sing acc godliness,
piety; religion**

2 Pet. 1:5, “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

2 Pet. 1:6, “to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

2 Pet. 1:7, “to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

2 Pet. 1:8, “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Pet. 1:9, “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”

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Spiritual Life Structure, 2 Pet. 1:5–7

Love

**Brotherly
Affection**

Endurance

Self-Restraint

Knowledge

**Spiritual
Excellence**

Faith

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ὑπάρχω *huparcho*

**pres act part neut plur
nom [conditional
adverbial ptcp]
to be, exist; possess,
have advantage
“if you possess ...”**

πλεονάζω

pleanazo

**pres act part
neut plur nom
[conditional
adverbial ptcp]**

**to increase,
abound**

2 Pet. 1:8, “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be [are] neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

καθίστημι *kathistemi*

**3 sing pres act indic
make, cause someone to
experience something**

ἄκαρπος *akarpōs*

**masc plur acc
unfruitful, not
bearing fruit**

ἄργός *argos*

**masc plur acc
idle, lazy;
useless;
unproductive**

2 Pet. 1:9, “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”

πάρειμι_1 *pareimi* 3 sing

**pres indic to be present,
available (sum), with the
negative; “the one who
does not have these things
(character qualities)”**

Rom. 6:21, “What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

Rom. 6:22, “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”

**Abide in Me
John 15:1–8**

**Walk in Light
Eph. 5:8;
1 Jn. 1:7; Phil. 1:10**

**Walk by the
Spirit
Gal. 5:16**

**John 15:4,
“Abide in Me,
and I in you. As
the branch
cannot bear fruit
of itself, unless it
abides in the
vine, neither can
you, unless you
abide in Me.”**

**Eph. 5:9, “(for
the fruit of the
Spirit is in all
goodness,
righteousness,
and truth),”**

**Phil. 1:11, “being
filled with the fruits
of righteousness
which are by Jesus
Christ, to the glory
and praise of God.”**

**Gal. 5:22, “But the
fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace,
longsuffering,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
Gal. 5:23,
“gentleness, self-
control. Against
such there is no
law.”**

What is Fruit?

Is it overt quantifiable activity or internal character transformation?

How is fruit produced? What are the necessary conditions?

John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Conclusion

The sole condition for producing spiritual fruit is to abide in Christ.

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But other passages mention other conditions. So either there are many conditions, or these conditions are all different facets of the same thing, something I will emphasize as living our lives in close, harmonious partnership with God.

Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit/Light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),”

Eph. 5:10, “finding out [demonstrating] what is acceptable to the Lord.”

Eph. 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

Context

Eph. 5:2, “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Context

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,”

Context

Eph. 1:18, “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

When we believe we receive:

- **God's righteousness and are declared justified.**
- **We receive a new life, eternal life.**
- **We are also baptized or identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, which puts us into the body of Christ.**
- **We are new creatures "in Christ."**
- **We are adopted into God's royal family, with a new code of conduct, which is compatible with God's righteousness.**

Eph. 2:2, “in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,”

Eph. 2:4–5,

**“But God ... made us alive together with
Christ.”**

**Eph. 2:10, “For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand that we
should walk in them.”**

Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit [light] is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),”

**Eph. 5:15, “See then that you walk
circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,**

**Eph. 5:16, “redeeming the time, because
the days are evil.**

**Eph. 5:17, “Therefore do not be unwise,
but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

**Eph. 5:18, “And do not be drunk with wine,
in which is dissipation; but be filled by
means of the Spirit,”**

The Results:

Eph. 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph. 5:21, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

1 John 1:5, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 1:3, “that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

James 4:4, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Phil. 3:18, “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

From Ephesians

- 1. We are children of light, that is our position.**
- 2. We are to walk as children of light.**

From 1 John:

- 3. God is pure light: righteousness, justice, and truth.**
- 4. His character is incompatible with darkness.**
- 5. So we cannot walk in darkness and enjoy that partnership in life with God.**

- 6. The necessary condition for producing the fruit of the Spirit/Light is walking in the Light, which means to enjoy the active partnership in life with God/with Christ.**
- 7. That walking in the Light is also characterized by being filled in our souls with the Word of Christ. The Word of Christ dwells, makes its home, in us.**
- 8. Therefore, abiding in John 15 is the condition for fruit; walking in the Spirit/Light is the condition for fruit in Eph. 5.**

Phil. 1:9, “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

Phil. 1:10, “that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

Phil. 1:11, “being filled with the fruit [singular] of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”