

How to Bear Fruit for God: Married to Christ, Not the Law

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“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become **dead to the law** through the body of Christ, that you may be **married to another**—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should **bear fruit to God**.” — Romans 7:4 (NKJV)

Highlight key: = grace / *apart-from-works* truth · = the precious gift · **bold** = key terms

God’s Plan: Always Bear Fruit, Grow, Flourish

God’s design is not the world’s roller-coaster. He intends believers to **always bear fruit, always grow, and always flourish** — happy, healthy, on a straight path, because He goes ahead and straightens crooked turns.

World’s way	God’s way
Life rises and falls with circumstances	Fruit, growth, and flourishing stay steady in Christ
Health, joy, and peace come and go	The righteous path grows brighter day by day
Drought withers the soul	Leaves stay green; fruit keeps coming

- **Bear fruit always** — not occasional bursts then bare branches.
- **Grow daily** — today’s measure exceeds yesterday’s.
- **Flourish in drought** — pressure does not dry up your life.
- Normal Christianity when the gospel — not self-effort — feeds the root.

Romans 7:4

*“So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might **bear fruit for God.**” — Romans 7:4*

Romans 8:19

*“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the **manifestation of the sons of God.**” — Romans 8:19*

Romans 8:32

*“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **give us all things?**” — Romans 8:32*

You may bear fruit instantly after conversion, then hit a slow season — that is when many give up. Romans was written because fruit can *decrease* when believers forget **how** fruit grows: married to Christ, not oscillating between grace and law.

Psalm 1, Proverbs 4:18 — and Three Marks of Fruitful Life

Scripture paints the righteous as a tree by streams — path like dawn shining **brighter and brighter**. Growth means more health, joy, and good works than yesterday; heat does not scorch the cedar’s green leaves.

Psalm 1:3 (NKJV)

*“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its **fruit in its season**, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” — Psalm 1:3 (NKJV)*

Proverbs 4:18 (NKJV)

*“But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever **brighter unto the perfect day.**” — Proverbs 4:18 (NKJV)*

1. **Bear fruit in season** — consistently, not only in easy years.
2. **Grow like the cedar** — taller, stronger, deeper year by year.
3. **Leaf stays green in drought** — wellbeing holds when others wilt.

Even in lean **Malachi years**, the righteous still bear without fail:

Malachi 3:11 (NKJV)

*“And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the **fruit of your ground**, nor shall the vine fail to **bear fruit** for you in the field,”* says the LORD of hosts. — **Malachi 3:11 (NKJV)**

Who qualifies? The righteous — not the perfect performer. Righteousness is a gift in Christ (**Romans 5:19**). These three marks are for *you*.

When Fruit Decreases — and Why

Paul wrote to Rome because believers who once bore fruit, grew, and flourished were now **producing less**. One root cause runs through the letter — not many scattered problems.

- **Started fruitful** — early faith looked like Psalm 1.
- **Fruit decreased over time** — same people, less life flowing out.
- **Unrighteousness** — living as if blessing follows your works, not Christ’s righteousness.
- **Wrong mindset** — law thinking dressed in religious language.

The law is **holy and good** when it points you to Christ — but your blessing was never tied to your obedience. Christ’s obedience made you righteous:

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

*“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made **righteous**.”* — **Romans 5:19 (NKJV)**

Why does fruit dry up? When favour rises and falls with your performance, you leave the gospel for law thinking — death-fruit, not God-fruit.

Walk in the Spirit, Not the Flesh

Romans and First John use different words for the same fork: **Spirit vs flesh, light vs darkness**. Fruit follows whichever path you feed.

- **Spirit / light** — hear God's word; walk by faith in Christ.
- **Flesh / darkness** — hear human rules; walk by self-effort.
- **Stumble in the light** — Christ's blood cleanses; you are not condemned.

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

*"For to be carnally minded is **death**, but to be spiritually minded is **life and peace**."* — **Romans 8:6 (NKJV)**

"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth. 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 1:6-7 (NKJV)**

Walking in the light is not sinless perfection — it is direction toward God. If light-walkers never sinned, His blood would be unnecessary.

Married to Christ — Bear Fruit for God

Romans 7 uses marriage law: bound to the first husband while he lives; free when he dies. You were born bound to law — Christ died so you could belong to **Him** and bear fruit for God. Returning to law after grace is **spiritual adultery** — a divided heart that trusts Christ for heaven but law for daily blessing.

Romans 7:2 (NKJV)

"For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives." — **Romans 7:2 (NKJV)**

Romans 7:3 (NKJV)

*"So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an **adulteress**."* — **Romans 7:3 (NKJV)**

Romans 7:4 (NKJV)

*“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become **dead to the law** through the body of Christ, that you may be **married to another**—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should **bear fruit to God**.” — Romans 7:4 (NKJV)*

Romans 7:5 (NKJV)

*“For when we were in the **flesh**, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to **death**.” — Romans 7:5 (NKJV)*

Romans 7:6 (NKJV)

*“But now we have been **delivered from the law**, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.” — Romans 7:6 (NKJV)*

Psalms 103:10-12 (NKJV)

*“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities... as far as the east is from the west, so far has He **removed our transgressions** from us.” — Psalms 103:10-12 (NKJV)*

- **Union first** — joined to Christ before you produce anything.
 - **Law cannot die** — it is holy; you died to it in Christ.
 - **Look to Jesus only** — fruit flows from that gaze, not from performance scores.
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Do Not Be Lukewarm: New Wine, New Wineskins

Mixing gospel grace with law-keeping produces **lukewarm** faith — saved on one side, earning blessing by obedience on the other. Scripture warns: that mixture will be rejected.

Revelation 3:16

*“So then because thou art **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” — Revelation 3:16*

Matthew 9:16

*“No man putteth a piece of **new cloth** unto an **old garment**.” — Matthew 9:16*

Matthew 9:17

*“Neither do men put **new wine** into **old bottles**.” — Matthew 9:17*

- **Lukewarm** — Christ for salvation, law for health, wealth, and peace.
 - **Both tear** — you lose gospel power *and* law comfort; fruit fails.
 - **Be hot in grace** — all blessing flows from Christ alone, freely.
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Eat Solid Food — Sonship, Not Slavery

Many stay on milk — forgiven, yet never eating **solid food**: the gospel of what Christ did. You are a **son**, not a slave under a schoolmaster.

Romans 8:15

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of **sonship**.” — Romans 8:15*

Hebrews 5:13

*“For every one that useth **milk** is unskilful in the **word of righteousness**.” — Hebrews 5:13*

Hebrews 5:14

*“But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of **full age**.” — Hebrews 5:14*

Galatians 4:7

*“Wherefore thou art **no more a servant**, but **a son**.” — Galatians 4:7*

Galatians 3:25

*“But after that faith is come, we are **no longer under a schoolmaster**.” — Galatians 3:25*

- **Milk** — “Jesus saved me from hell.”
 - **Solid food** — “Jesus made me righteous; I reign as a son.”
 - **Feed on Christ’s finished work** — not sermons tying blessing to behaviour.
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It Is Free — All Things in Christ

God did not spare His Son — how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Salvation is free; so is everything it carries — healing, peace, growth, and fruit.

Romans 8:32

*“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also **freely give us all things**?” — Romans 8:32*

Romans 5:17 (NKJV)

*“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** shall **reign in life** by one, Jesus Christ.” — Romans 5:17 (NKJV)*

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” — Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)*

- **Righteousness, fruit, growth** — all included with Christ, not sold separately.
 - **Receive by faith** — the cross already paid more than you are asking.
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Law vs Faith — and Three Keys to Always Bear Fruit

Did you receive the Spirit by law-works or by hearing with faith? Mixing law with grace blocks fruit. You began in the Spirit — do not try to finish in the flesh.

Galatians 3:2-3

*“This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the **law**, or by the hearing of **faith**? Are you so foolish? Having **begun in the Spirit**,*

are you now being made perfect by the **flesh**?" — **Galatians 3:2-3**

Galatians 3:5-6

*“Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the **law**, or by the hearing of **faith**?—just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’” — **Galatians 3:5-6***

Law path	Faith path
Blessing tied to your obedience	Blessing tied to Christ’s finished work
Fruit unto death (Rom 7:5)	Fruit for God
Begun in Spirit, perfected in flesh	Begun and continued in Spirit alone

- 1. **Look to Jesus only** — He finished everything; fruit follows fixation on Him.
- 2. **Do not be lukewarm** — refuse grace-for-heaven, law-for-earth mixture.
- 3. **Eat solid food** — feed on what Christ did, not what you must do.

When these align, the Psalm 1 tree is normal again: always fruit, daily growth, green leaves in drought — married to Christ, dead to law, receiving all things freely.

The Takeaway

- 1. **God’s plan** — always bear fruit, grow daily, flourish in drought.
- 2. **Psalm 1 picture** — righteous as trees; path brighter daily (Proverbs 4:18; Malachi 3:11).
- 3. **Fruit fails when righteousness is sought by works** — Rome’s root problem is ours too.
- 4. **Christ’s obedience made you righteous** (Romans 5:19) — not your performance.
- 5. **Married to Christ, dead to law** (Romans 7:2-6) — bear fruit for God.

6. **Refuse lukewarm mixture** — new wine needs new wineskins.
7. **Eat solid food** — sonship, not slavery (Hebrews 5; Galatians 4:7).
8. **All things free in Christ** (Romans 8:32; Ephesians 2:8-9).
9. **Mind of the Spirit** (Romans 8:6) — begun in Spirit, never perfected by flesh.

Scripture-based study on bearing fruit for God through union with Christ — married to Him, not the law. If it strengthened you, share it with someone who needs this truth today.
