

1st John # 10

“Safe and Secure, but for What?”

John 15:3-6

Ephesians 4:12-13 “to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

God’s purpose in our fellowship with Him is to bring us to spiritual maturity for fruit-bearing.

The mature believer has a maximum personal sense of his destiny, so no matter what happens in his life, he relates all the good and bad to the fact that God has a purpose for his life.

He understands that purpose, applies it to situations, maintains his happiness and passes momentum testing, which is the greatest challenge in the spiritual life.

And maximum production means understanding our limitations and never allowing selfish ambition to exceed our limitations.

So, instead of living our lives by standards we’ve developed or standards people have developed for us by flattery, encouragement or persuasion; we have fantastic common sense, a marvelous sense of humor and a flexibility that shows us when, how and where to cease and desist.

Spiritual maturity removes all frustrations in life caused by not meeting our own expectations or not succeeding as others thought we would.

Spiritual maturity takes time, energy, effort and a tremendous amount of unobstructed study to truly renovate our thinking to be transformed to His thinking.

The believer is saved like the vine is planted; not simply for the exercise of growth but for the purpose or end result of producing sweet and savory fruit.

Immature plants are to keep on growing and mature plants are to keep on producing.

Our spiritual growth is related to our moment by moment intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ.

When we reach spiritual adulthood, we begin to produce fruit and instead of leaving us alone where we might be inclined to rest on our laurels, God will test us with adversity fitting our personality and our sin nature strengths and weaknesses, commensurate with our background.

God carefully designs tests that force us to make decisions from either a position of strength; biblical truth in our soul or weakness; minus the Word of God.

God the Farmer knows that He needs to prune away leaves, stems and shoots that rob energy from the plant; negating its fruit production.

The issue of their salvation is settled; so now the issue changes from *in Christ* to *abiding in Me* to include what’s necessary for spiritual growth and glorifying God.

As the branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it abides in the vine, neither can we produce fruit unless we abide in Christ.

No matter how many good works we perform or how moral or religious we are, there’s no fruit unless we’re in experientially abiding fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, we are the branches who receive feeding from the roots; TLJC, the true Vine who's planted in the soil of truth and as we feed on Him, our minds become saturated with His Word and we absorb spiritual nutrients.

The result is growth but it takes time and we may not see it for a while but when we are filled with the Holy Spirit; He is working in us and in God's timing, the transformation will take place.

Fruit only comes at maturity as a result of disciplined living and the quality of the fruit is dependent on the connection to the vine or plant.

God the Father cares for us whether we bear fruit or not because we have His Son's righteousness in us!

Jesus is saying; "I'm leaving and when I'm gone, My Heavenly Father will lift you up when you're down or when you need it and you can't ever be lost because you're clean, saved and secure!"

John 15:6 depicts the uselessness of pruned materials and so, the emphasis is on the uselessness of non-production and not the destruction of the pruned materials.

The greatest loss we can experience is losing our moment by moment intimacy of fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Father.