

"I chose you to go and bear fruit that will last."

According to Jesus, fruit-bearing in the Kingdom is a true sign that you belong to Him and are serving His purposes for your life for His Father's glory (John 15:1-8). Fruit-bearing is shown by your way of life in the Spirit. We've used the concept of **triage** for over 35 years to discern whether people are *spiritually fruitful*, *spiritually unfruitful*, or *spiritually dead*. Below, put an X on the characteristics which identify you. Then ask others who know you well to indicate where they think you are spiritually.

Level 1. Spiritually Fruitful (Matthew 13:23)

- You live repentantly and others can confirm your resolute determination to become more like Jesus by His grace to serve Him in love-grounded obedient trust. (Philippians 3:8-14)
- You fellowship with others who are resolute in mutual determination to become like your Lord and serve His purposes in love-grounded obedient trust. (John 15:16)
- You and your fellowship family are deeply burdened for, and actively seek to reach, the lost in your community, workplace and/or relational sphere. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Level 2. Spiritually Unfruitful (Luke 8:14; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)

You can recognize spiritual unfruitfulness when any of the Spiritually Fruitful indicators are absent. Look at the scale from 10 to 90, below. From **10 to 50** these people will benefit from the *encouragement* and *suggestions* given them by others who follow Jesus as their Lord. As they follow through on encouragement and suggestions, their lives can become Spiritually Fruitful in Him.

(0 to 50) You need encouragement and suggestions

- 10 ↑ You've done little toward pursuing Christ-likeness or serving Him with a grateful heart.
- 10 ↑ You continue to allow spiritual strongholds and/or toxic motives and memories which may remain after the strongholds are demolished to remain in your life.
- 20 You fellowship with others who are beset by the same prevailing strongholds as you are.
- 30 **Prescription:** You need to intentionally seek input from spiritually fruitful followers of Jesus. If you receive wise counsel and act upon it, your probability of becoming Spiritually Fruitful increases. You need encouragement, suggestions and ongoing spiritual and emotional support from others in Jesus. Becoming Spiritually Fruitful is difficult to accomplish alone!
- 40
- 50

60 At 60 or greater, your situation is urgent. (At 90 you're almost Spiritually Dead.)

(60 to 90) You require rebuke and specific direction

- 70 You have little or no regard for your need to repent and/or you have learned to enjoy the domination of demonic strongholds and toxic motivations for a long time.
- 80 Living resolutely determined to become more like our Lord Jesus and fulfilling our heavenly Father's will has become a distant memory.
- 90 ↓ You find yourself making disparaging comments about the Spiritually Fruitful.

Prescription: You need rebuke and specific direction from the Spiritually Fruitful in order to halt your further descent. A rebuke can act like the "paddles" used on a cardiac patient. You'll also need specific directions to help you become Spiritually Fruitful. It's important that you readily accept the rebukes, admonishment, and all specific guidance that you're given. You need intentional, ongoing personal accountability if you're to become Spiritually Fruitful. Call it "spiritual intensive care." Realize that you may not recognize the extreme situation you're in and how much you need the direction of people who care about you. That's why you need confidence in those who are mature in Christ, and you need to make it easy for them to give you appropriate rebukes and specific directions.

Level 3. Spiritually Dead (Proverbs 29:1; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20,21)

- ___ You're continually depressed and oppressed, and God has become no more than a concept in your mind.
- ___ Your unconfessed sin and/or strongholds have convinced you to never repent.
- ___ You may go through religious motions, but your heart and mind and spirit have no love for Jesus.

There's No Prescription Beyond Repentance: You may still talk the talk, but you have nothing in your life that evidences the character of Jesus, any love for Him, or any concern for doing His Father's will. Satan has taken you captive to do his will, and is using you to wear down fruitful followers of Jesus or to entice others who are spiritually unfruitful into your own way of spiritual death. No human effort can help you now since you've chosen darkness, and God will leave you in demonic oppression until you come to your senses and cry out to Jesus in repentance.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

Our triage descriptions can be used to compare how God's truth is regarded and practiced by various groups of people within congregations. Below are five different categories of people according to how they respond to doing God's will in their lives. Within each category is a comparison to our triage groups, and the percentage they represent within Christianity at large. Use this listing as a point of discussion with your spiritual family (1Corinthians 11:31; 2Corinthians 13:5).

1. Innovators

Spiritually Fruitful (2% of people) — these are people who hunger for God's will to be done in and through their lives and are willing to pay any cost to serve and obey Him because of their love for Him.

2. Early Adapters

Spiritually Fruitful (12%) — these enjoy relationships with Innovators and are also in relationship with those they can influence to press on in love-grounded obedient trust.

3. Early Majority

10 to 50 *Spiritually Unfruitful* (33%) — these individuals don't want to be the first to change and become more like Christ in love-grounded obedient trust nor do they want to be last to do so.

4. Late Majority

60 to 90 *Spiritually Unfruitful* (33%) — people who wait for institutional endorsement before even considering walking in the Spirit and doing Father's will in love-grounded obedient trust.

5. Laggards

Spiritually Dead (20%) — people who won't allow themselves to be changed to follow Jesus in love-grounded obedient trust no matter what truths are presented to them.

To further understand the above and gain insight into your own spiritual health and way of life, see our article:

Recognizing The Soil Of Your Soul <<https://restorationministries.org/download/21.soilofthesoul.pdf>>