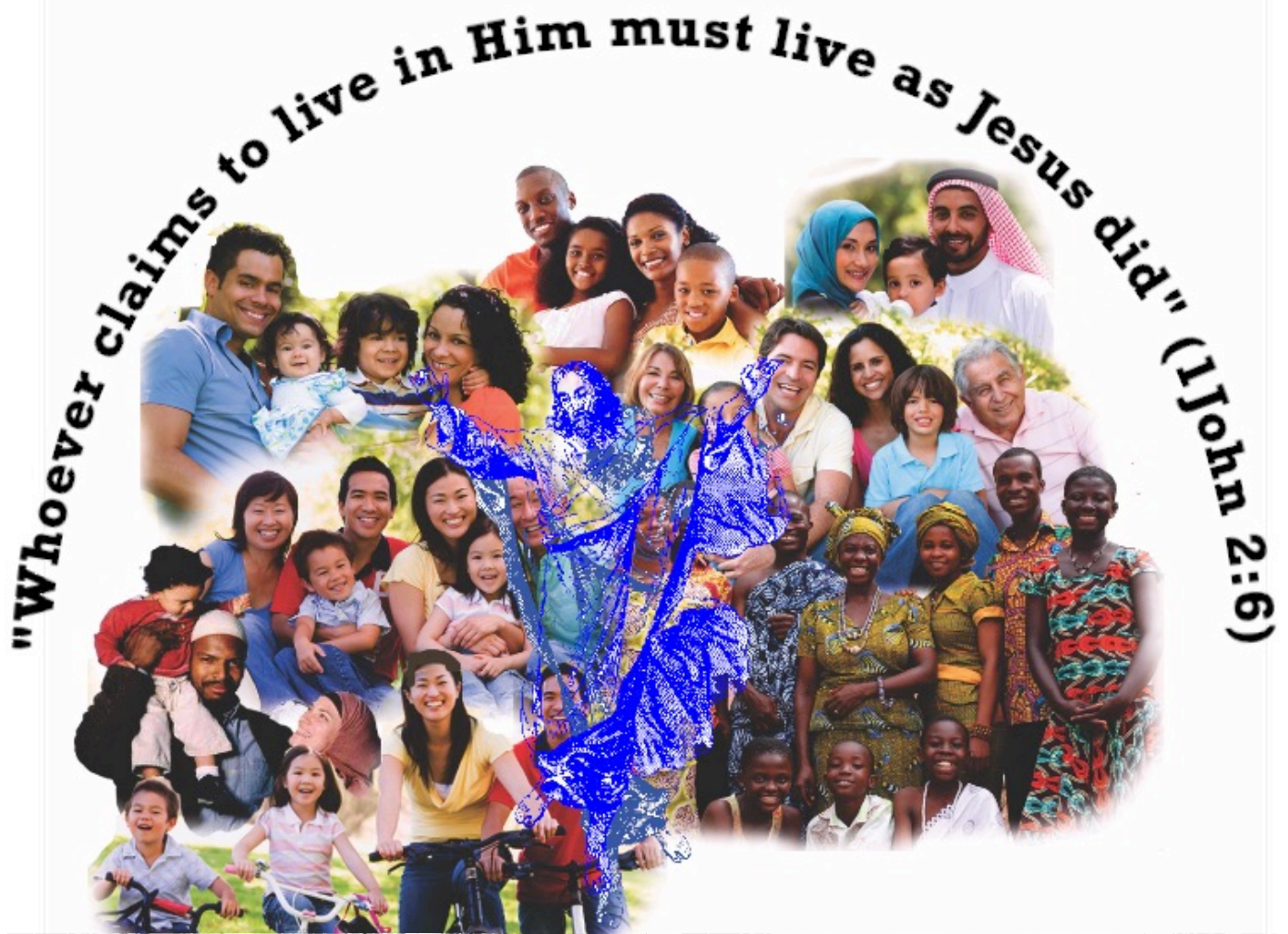


# Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 22. If You Don't Bear Lasting Fruit, Do You Really Belong To Jesus?



**Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations**

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## Reality 22. If You Don't Bear Lasting Fruit, Do You Really Belong To Jesus?

I don't know if it takes intense suffering to intimately experience Jesus as my all-in-all. But I certainly was prompted to examine my own heart after recently rereading a biography of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand, founders of Voice of the Martyrs. Richard spent 14 years enduring vicious torture and appalling deprivation because of his loving obedience to His Lord Jesus. (Sabina also endured 3 years of brutal punishment.) What stood out to me so clearly was his love and forgiveness toward his persecutors because of the presence of the Spirit of Christ in him. And even this was surpassed in my own gratefulness for Jesus as I read how the imprisoned Christians were so single-mindedly focused on Christ—not on their denominational differences or religious perspectives, but on the Person of Jesus! Whenever they could, they "talked Jesus" with each other and with unbelieving prisoners and guards and even their torturers. My heart was saddened as I realized how sidetracked my own conversations are when I'm not putting Jesus first in what I say and why I live for Him. Maybe this is your experience too. You can easily talk with other Christians about your congregation, your pastor, your Bible study group—but the wondrous Person of Jesus is rarely brought up by name!

If you're genuinely born again, then "Jesus things" are a wonderful part of your life. What I mean is that you are often urged by the indwelling Spirit to do something you otherwise wouldn't have thought of. It's His voice or a prompting which you know is from Him. And it's as you tell others about your specific interaction with our Lord's Spirit that His reality as being alive and at work in and through and around you is made known. He's the Living Lord a desperate world needs to hear about! Sadly though, too many Christians live as though Jesus is a historical figure whose life is detailed in the Bible but they have no personal connection with Him.

When you're "talking Jesus" you have frequent testimonies like, "Stop what you're doing and call so-and-so"; or you're sitting in a restaurant and the Spirit tells you, "Get up and introduce yourself to that person coming in right now." Sharing these divine interactions is what Mike and I call "talking Jesus." We find these to be rare among denominationally-based churchgoers, but not among the Lordship-committed who live obedience-based out of love for Him. Our heavenly Father is restoring the Lordship-committed as part of the Hebraic foundations. But for us it's depressing when we go for long periods of time without "talking Jesus" with others, especially for Mike with his chronic pain from Agent Orange. Encountering "Christians" who can't talk Jesus just adds to his emotional misery.

***"Let us lay aside the sin which so easily entangles us.***

***And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us"*** (Hebrews 12:1).

I'd like to share with you my years of observation as to why so many churchgoers don't **talk Jesus**. Primarily it's because of the "thorny sin" that so easily entangles them—and compromise with worldly values and goals has made this permissible for them. One of the most frequently discussed parables of Jesus concerns the kind of soil on which the seed of God's Word falls. (Read the parable in Luke 8:4-18.) The "soil" of your heart and mind depicts the level of your determination to love and serve Jesus as Lord of your life. This is important because our Lord is indicating a line of eternal demarcation concerning who will receive salvation at the Judgment Throne and who won't. Get past whatever **creedal corral** you've been paddocked in by anti-Semitic theology which discounts the Hebrew Scriptures, and internalize our Lord Jesus's words as our Hebraic forefathers would have. Remember, these men and women were the first to be **genuinely born again and baptized with His Spirit.**

Jesus as well as His early disciples understood that the true Gospel foundations have been laid out in the Older Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures. That's how His followers could expect certain parameters and indicators to be fulfilled when Messiah came! They also understood that salvation is received at the end of our life's journey when we receive a glorious welcome as His own. It's in the fruitfulness of our character that Peter urges us to keep abounding in our relationship with *Jesus as our Lord* so that we don't stumble into sin. Then as our journey ends on earth, we'll be received into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (see 2Peter 1:8-11).

Let's look more closely at why the particular "soil" of your heart, your receptivity (or not) to stay the course by grace, is so essential in your eternal destination. There's great assurance in your own eternal future when you know by the Spirit that **He is producing lasting fruit through you**. But the tragic alternative to this joyous anticipation is described by three types of soil in people in whom the Holy Spirit isn't dwelling, and are therefore producing no lasting fruit. Even though people without the Spirit may be churchgoers, they are not genuinely born again:

1. **The seed on the path**. These folks hear the Word of God and may even consider it valid. (Maybe you've run across people who've "been there, done that" as far as their own religious beliefs. It sounded good at first, like being given a lottery ticket, but they decided it was meaningless to how they lived.) And as Jesus points out, there's demonic interference going on here. Satan takes away the message of truth from their hearts so they don't trust and don't find salvation at life's end. **In effect, the word of God made no difference in their lives. The lack of lasting fruit testifies against them.** However, they often populate sociable congregations in which they can feel good about themselves even without the Holy Spirit's abiding presence. Most people around them would categorize them as "good Christians" because they're friendly and may even do kind deeds at times. But they aren't bearing lasting fruit under the Lordship of Jesus to our Father's glory since they're without the Holy Spirit.

Satan has a clear advantage when churchgoers discount his reality. Over 76% of Christians don't believe the devil exists, no matter what the Bible says. These are deceived, self-identified "Christians" whom Satan uses "to do his will" (2Timothy 2:26). He's delighted when Spirit-less "Christians" occupy pews and even leadership roles as "*spiritual laggards*"— captives who won't let themselves be changed no matter what truths are presented to them. (See Lifebyte 15. [Satan's Strategies \(Part 1\)](#) for insight into how Satan is very present *within* Christianity.) The devil doesn't care how much Bible knowledge the fruitless accumulate since those verses have no effect whatsoever on their way of life. And laggard religious leaders may present entertaining sermons, but if listeners aren't accountable to put biblical truth into practice, they're serving themselves and Satan in their fruitlessness.

2. **The seed on the rock**. These people hear the message of Truth and joyfully receive it. Not realizing that following Christ means denying self-will to walk in His steps, they're willing to believe as long as their life is going well for them. (This perspective is even more pronounced among the **Church Growth people, the Name it and Claim it folks, and the Health and Wealth teachings**.) But when they face the trials, testing or temptation which God's Word assures us will happen, their joy withers and they fall away. For social reasons they may stay in congregations because they enjoy the activities and the nice people. But **in effect, the word of God made no difference in their lives. The lack of lasting fruit testifies against them.**

3. **The seed among the thorns**. This soil represents so many churchgoers Mike and I

have met, people who've been seduced into compromise with the world's values and ways. During the past seventy years the Humanism which undergirds public education has produced numerous churchgoers who live among the thorns. You can recognize them because **personal interest** and **self-preservation** far override any thought of the Lordship of Jesus and fulfilling our Father's purposes. I'm in my seventh decade and wasn't impacted by Humanist poison during my public education years. But the enemy of our souls has rapidly permeated every aspect of education now through Humanism, and has done so ever more virulently in the past couple generations. The thorny goals of personal pleasure and self-idolatry which have become the mantra of social media have tragically spilled over into Christianity.

Because so many in Christianity are the products of public education and the influence of self-exalting **Humanism** which it preaches, all they desire out of their faith walk is an abundant measure of personal happiness and material security. With Humanism deeply instilled in them, they are the center of their world. Everything including Jesus exists to make them happy. Yet how pointedly our Father is allowing their delusions to be pierced by events and circumstances which only He can orchestrate to bring them to repentance and authentic trust: economic woes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and just plain sadness especially among the young.

A recent study reported that 57% of girls today and 29% of boys are persistently sad. Something is terribly wrong! Perhaps some in your own family or faith family are suffering this. We recommend you read about the evil thorns of public education and its impact on the vulnerable: [Extending Satan's Domain](#) (page 25) in **Hebraic Home Fellowships Must Produce Godly Generations**.

Congregations which don't emphasize repentance or personal sacrifice or deep concern for the lost attract humanist-influenced people looking for social comfort and self-satisfaction. These **thorn-surrounded Christians** allow the worries of this world as well as their penchant for assets and pleasure to compromise God's Word. The world's value system has choked out any identity as bondslaves of our Lord Jesus, so bearing lasting fruit for our Lord is an intrusion, not a God-exalting privilege! And while a number of anti-Semitic theologies which brush aside the Hebrew Scriptures would declare these people "saved", the Bible condemns them as God's enemy for compromising with the ways and values of the unbelieving world:

• *"Adulteresses! [spiritually unfaithful against God] Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore resolves to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4).*

• *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but the one doing the will of God abides forever" (1John 2:15-17).*

**In effect, the word of God made no difference in their lives. The lack of lasting fruit testifies against them.** It's disheartening to know that so many who consider themselves Christian are so focused on what the world can offer them or are consumed with cares and worries (as if Father doesn't see). "Thorns" of pleasure and thorns of cares have the same choking effect on their spiritual walk: fruitlessness. They're not okay with our Lord! Choking keeps you from breathing, and when your spirit is choked, any fruit you might have grown to bless others dies prematurely. It's a sad biblical reality that whether the seed of God's truth falls on the path, on rock, or in the thorns, the same eternal condemnation results.

**For Mike and me, it's been "Christians" whose lives are deeply entwined with worldly**

**“thorns” who've driven us away over the years. Enthralled by their worldly accomplishment or engrossed in their quest for pleasure or constantly preoccupied by fretful worries of loss, they terminate conversations which center on our Lord Jesus.**

4. **The seed on good soil.** When the Word of God is received on good soil and is heard with obedience, with humility, and with the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, then lasting fruit is born in fulfilling our Father's will. These are people who've been steeped in Older Testament truths as well as New, and they fully understand that to belong to our Lord is a way of life of producing lasting fruit through the indwelling Spirit. Having a Spirit-given "noble and good heart" enables you to see your life's journey from Father's perspective –with the Lordship of Jesus and not you at the center. This is the life the Bible speaks to. We're responsible to seek our Lord daily for Father's will in how to use each one!

If your heart is “good soil”, you're a sojourner on earth heading toward the city our Lord has prepared for you (Hebrews 11:8-10; 13:14). The Bible is the Spirit's resource manual revealing the characteristics of a fruitful life in fulfilling your heavenly Father's purposes. ***But it's the indwelling Spirit Who provides you our Father's specific will (His *rhema*) to guide you.*** The Spirit, not the Bible, is your primary contact with both the Lordship of Jesus and fulfilling your Father's will. The Spirit's intimate point of contact within you is crucial as Jesus explains in John 15:1-8, below. In sharing the parable of the four types of soil, our Lord already knew that the indwelling Holy Spirit with whom He would baptize the genuinely born again would make all the difference in their lives. He foresaw the intimate interconnectedness His indwelling Spirit would make in the genuinely born again in order for them to bear lasting fruit en route to their salvation:

*“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me not bearing fruit He takes away; and every branch bearing fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you, unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned\*. If you remain in Me, and My words [*rhema*] remain in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:1-8).*

\*Among the four different types of soil, which groups do you think will be burned in the fires of hell? Our Lord Jesus fulfilled the Gospel that's contained in the Older Testament by fulfilling all its requirements and parameters and far more. We believe that unless the people in the first three groups repent and fully turn to Christ in loving and obedient trust, they will suffer the consequences.

As an older woman myself, I especially encourage you older women to set aside any of the scribal theologies you've been taught which have convinced you to blithely presume that heaven awaits you no matter how you live. Please take a close look at your own life and that of your family members. If you or they aren't the “good soil” to which Jesus refers, then each of you needs to repent and become genuinely born again before it's too late. I strongly urge you to not take this too lightly! If “Jesus talk” is foreign to your Christian life, you may not have His Spirit abiding within you. And bring this up to your loved ones too if you really care about their eternal destiny.

Please prayerfully answer this: Has the Holy Spirit verified His presence in you through your bearing lasting fruit? Lasting fruit born through you by grace is undeniable verification of your eternal destination. You're the one who must be certain that you'll be welcomed into heaven. Don't you want to know from the Holy Spirit Himself that He's in you? He's glad to reveal His presence!

When the Spirit of our Lord abides in you, you see the people in your neighborhood, workplace, school and town differently. You're far more concerned with their eternal welfare! While we were still in Israel we were warned, "You're going back to the hardest place on earth for this message to be received. Christians there don't need God and they don't need each other." These words define the insidious impact of Humanism: the majority of Christians in the US, whether Catholic or Protestant, delightedly live as **seed in the thorns**. With the full support of so much of their theologies and doctrinal positions, they've eliminated the Lordship of Jesus and the many biblical commands to serve Him in love. In His place many of the thorn-ensnared believe that Jesus demands little or nothing of their lives, or that He exists to improve their lives and make them happy.

I plead particularly with you older women to be honest with our Lord Jesus and your family. If you don't see lasting fruit in yourself or in them that's being produced by the indwelling Holy Spirit, it's a convicting sign that you or they won't be welcomed into heaven. Call out to our Father now in loving trust, asking Him to give you the Holy Spirit as Jesus counsels in Luke 11:9-13. The way of life for the genuinely born again is producing lasting fruit because we are connected to the Vine by His Spirit.

Sue (with loving support and input from Mikel!)