

How to Bear Fruit Part 8

Staying on the Board

Main Verse

John 15:8

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

1. Why Do Some Christians Bear Little Fruit?

We have the Holy Spirit, so why do we sometimes see little character growth?

Answer #1: Lack of Regular Input from God's Word

Without the "manual" (the Bible), we have no clear instructions for life.

Key Question:

If we're not reading God's Word, *what* are we reading? *Who* is instructing us instead?

Warning:

Without God's instructions, we will be led astray. Just look around!

2. God's Design: Instruction Leads to Growth

- *Proverbs 9:9* — Wise people grow wiser when instructed.
- *Proverbs 11:14* — Without guidance, people fall. But with many counselors, there's safety.

In everyday life:

- Every role (parent, spouse, worker, leader) requires training.
 - So why would our spiritual life be different?
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3. Both the Living Word and the Written Word

- Without understanding God's manual (Scripture), and without prayer (connection), we can't bear the fruit God desires.
- God expects a return on His investment (His Son).

Examples from Scripture:

- *Matthew 21:18-19* — Jesus cursed the fruitless fig tree.
 - *John 15:1-2* — God prunes fruitful branches to bear more fruit.
 - *Luke 17:11-19* — Only one leper returned to give thanks—God expects a response.
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4. The Surfing Analogy: Standing Firm on God's Word

- **Surfing needs:** Water + Waves + Surfboard
- **Wave side (earthly life) vs. Bay side (heaven)**
- **Surfboard = God's Word**
 - If we *don't* understand God's Word, Satan snatches it away (*Matthew 13:19, Mark 4:15*).
 - Without the Word, we're body surfing—much more dangerous.

Body Surfing = Operating in the Flesh:

- Unrenewed mind (*Romans 12:2*)
 - Own strength (*Isaiah 12:2*)
 - Own opinions (*Proverbs 3:5-7; 28:26*)
 - Following others' opinions or strange teachings (*2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3:15-16*)
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5. Staying on the Board: Apply the "Wax"

Wax = Watchfulness & Alertness:

- *Hebrews 2:1* — Pay closer attention so we don't drift and slip away.
 - *1 Peter 5:8-9* — Stay watchful because the enemy prowls.
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6. Closing Call: Stay in the Word & Stay Connected

- Bear fruit → Glorify God → Prove you're a disciple (*John 15:8*).
- Stay on the board (God's Word), stay waxed (alert & watchful), and avoid body surfing (living in the flesh).

Self-examination: Picture your own life

- *"Are you surfing strong, standing firm on the Word... or are you body surfing, vulnerable to wipeouts?"*
- The challenge: *"This week, what's one way you can stay more firmly on the board—more time in the Word, deeper prayer, resisting distraction?"*

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Slide show option: (PowerPoint)

How to Bear Fruit for God (Part 8)

Staying on the Board

John 15:8

Slide 1:

Main Goal

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

(John 15:8)

Slide 2:

Question:

Why do some Christians bear little fruit?

Answer:

Not regularly feeding on God's Word.

Slide 3:

Without God's Word...

- No manual for life
- No clear guidance

Proverbs 9:9, 11:14

Slide 4:

Examples Needing Instruction:

- Husbands & Wives
- Fathers & Mothers
- Business leaders
- Grandparents

Slide 5:

God Expects Fruitfulness

- *Matthew 21:18-19* (Fig tree)
 - *John 15:1-2* (More fruit)
 - *Luke 17:11-19* (Thankfulness)
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Slide 6:

Surfing Analogy

- Waves (Earth) vs. Bay (Heaven)
 - Surfboard = God's Word
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Slide 7:

Without the Word...

- Satan snatches it (*Matthew 13:19*)
 - Body surfing = danger
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Slide 8:

Body Surfing Means:

- Fleshly living (*Romans 12:2*)
 - Own strength (*Isaiah 12:2*)
 - Own opinions (*Proverbs 3:5-7*)
 - Strange teachings (*2 Timothy 3:1-5*)
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Slide 9:

Staying on the Board = Applying Wax

- *Hebrews 2:1* (Pay closer attention)
- *1 Peter 5:8-9* (Be watchful)

Slide 10:

Closing Call

- Bear fruit → Glorify God → Prove discipleship
 - Stay on the board, stay waxed, avoid body surfing
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Slide 11:

Reflection Question:

How will you stay on the board this week?

- More Word?
 - Deeper prayer?
 - Resist distractions?
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Slide 12:

Thank You!

Stay in the Word. Stay connected. Bear much sweet fruit!