**The Corrupt Tree**

***John 15:4****Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

***Matthew 7:17-18****Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.****18****A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit*.

According to Strong’s Concordance, something that is corrupt is decaying or dying because it is separated from its source of life.

***Matthew 7:15****Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.* ***16****Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

False prophets will come with a good sounding message, but it will not bring forth good fruit. A corrupt tree **[one that is separated from its source]** cannot bring forth good fruit.

There is a good sounding message out there, but instead of producing love, joy, peace and a sense of righteousness, it is producing condemnation, strife, envy, bitterness and jealousy.

***2 Corinthians 11:13****For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.* ***14****And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.* ***15****Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Again, there will be false prophets with a message that looks good! They will minister righteousness that depends upon the works of man. They will put the focus on the branch’s ability rather than on the supply of the vine. That is a failure formula because by the law no one will be made righteous. Do they know that they are presenting a false gospel? I don’t think so. The message sounds good, but it cannot produce what God wants to produce in our lives. Satan is behind this false gospel.

***2 Thessalonians 2: 4****Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God,* ***shewing himself that he is God.***

The message sounds so good that people think that it is coming from God.

***Matthew 7: 21****Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* ***22****Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* ***23****And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

People have been involved with doing things that sound good, but they are not things that are coming from the heart of God. The scripture says, “Depart from me, you that work iniquity.” You who are occupied with the things of the law, depart from me!

You can be doing things for the kingdom and you call Jesus Lord, but if you are doing it from a law standpoint, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. We think that means that they will not spend eternity with the Father. But, what it means is that these people will not be able to partake of true gospel fruit, which is a sense of righteousness, peace, and joy.

***Romans 14:17****For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

If you are not experiencing these things, it is a good indication that the deceptions of the wolf are at work.

There are two gates. One leads to life, and one is corrupt!

**Matthew 7:13**Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **14**Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**Isaiah 29:20**For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch **[on the lookout, alert]** for iniquity are cut off **[destroyed, fail, perish]**: **21**That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth **[to be right]** in the gate, and turn aside **[deflect, overthrow]** the just **[lawful, righteous]** for a thing of nought **[worthless, vain]**.

How does the angel of Light or wolf bring about the deception according to works? It sounds so obvious, but it is easy for the enemy to involve us because we have such a zeal for the things of the Lord. We want what God has for us and we will fight to get it! Here is how is works…

Read the parable of the sower in **Mark 4.** This parable is key to understanding all of the other parables. **Mark 4:13** Seed was sown into the ground but the seed not only fell into good soil, but it also fell upon the path way, upon stony ground and upon ground that was full of weeds. The harvest was an indicator of the type of ground that the seed fell on.

Our first reaction when we read this is that we need to do something to improve our ground! It is a natural reaction because everyone wants to live life to its fullest and be a productive child of God that is pleasing to the master. Our own zeal plays into the lies of the wolf or the angel of light who always refers us to the works of our own hands.

***Mark 4:14****The sower soweth the word.* ***15****And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

***16****And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;*

***17****And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

***18****And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,*

***19****And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful*.

In each one of these situations, something happened to the Word that was heard and it was not able to bear fruit. **1 Peter 1:23** says that God’s Word is incorruptible, and **Isaiah 55:10-11** says that God’s Word always accomplishes what he sends it to accomplish. **Mark 4:24** says to take heed how you hear, and the account of the sower in **Luke 8:18** says to take heed what you hear**.** Unless what you hear comes from the Holy Spirit, your hearing will not be able to bear fruit.**1 Corinthians 2:9-14.**

What part does the soil play in growing a crop? Does the soil throw out the rocks, till itself or pull up its own weeds? That is the farmer’s job. The soil only receives the seed. This is directly parallel to the vine and the branches. The branch receives and out of its receiving it produces good fruit. The fruit comes from abiding in the provision supplied by the vine.

If you aren’t abiding in the vine, the fruit will reveal it. Instead of peace and joy, you will experience frustration and condemnation that comes from the flesh not being able to conform to the things of the law. **Romans 7:18**

***Matthew 7:20****Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

Have we truly grasped the concept of abiding in Him or is it mixed with the lies of the angel of light that promotes righteousness through works? God is our provider, our husbandman, our source.

***2Peter 1:3*** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

***2Pe 1:8*** *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***2Pe*** *1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*