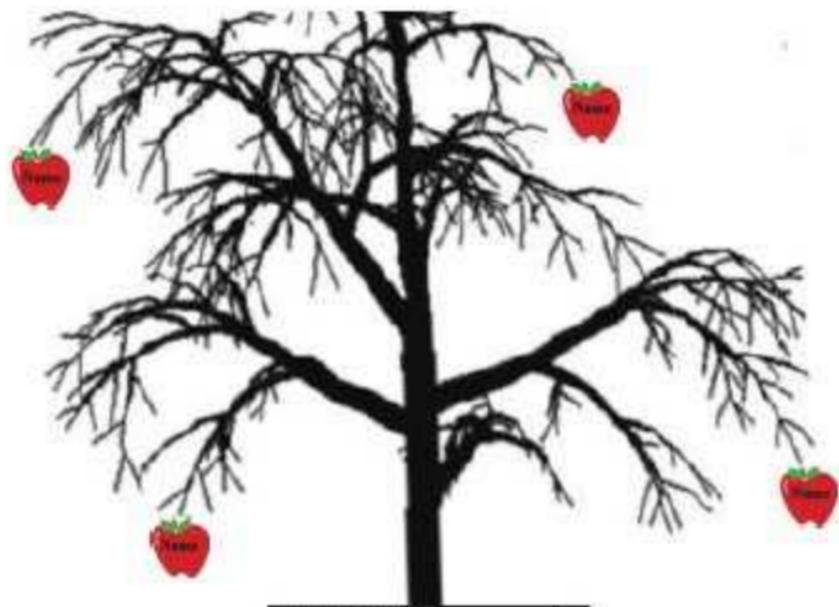


A Lessons For Life Book

# Bearing



Keith Hammond

# Fruit

In A Dying World

# Introduction

If you're a Christian then you probably believe that some day you're going to stand before God the Father and be judged for what we did and didn't do on earth.

What do you think would happen if when God asks you the question of how many people you offered salvation to and led into a relationship with His son...that there are no people you can name?

Based on John 15:16 and Romans 7:4-5 the tree on the cover represents our ministry, and each apple contains the name of someone we have led to Christ.

This book asks each Christian the tough question of how much fruit they're bearing. Shows how to get started, from the basic initiative of going to the street and asking the question 'do you know Jesus'.

Every Christian in every church was saved to help save others. So, you should be **BEARING FRUIT!**



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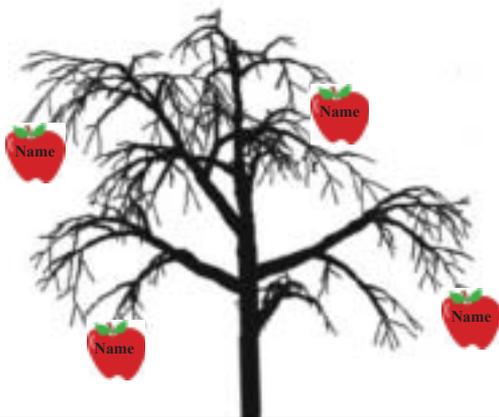
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## Chapter One

Most Christians live their lives going to church on Sunday, and doing nothing for God on Monday. In John 15:16 Jesus said we did not choose Him, but He chose us and appointed us to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Romans 7:4-5 says that Jesus was raised from the dead so that we may bear fruit for God. In order to bear fruit for God we have to learn to walk like Jesus walked.

Babies learn to crawl before they walk. They crawl, and this is important, slowly, uncertain at first, because crawling is new to them. This is no different than new Christians. When someone gives their life to Christ, they crawl at first, not yet realizing that confidence that they can truly walk with Christ. Let's examine:

### **1. When babies take their first steps, they go slowly; gingerly, uncertain.**

When Christians take the first step, by giving our lives to Christ, we do it slowly; gingerly at first, uncertain.

### **2. When babies start to walk, they “go” into new areas where they couldn't go before.**

When Christians start to walk, we “grow” into new areas where we couldn't grow before. We grow by coming to church, we talk different, don't do things we used to, go places we used to, hang around the same people we used to.

### **3. When babies are learning to walk, most of the time they do so with the help of a “walker.”**

When Christians are first learning to walk, we also learn from a walker, someone who is already walking the walk.

#### **4. When babies first learn to walk they take baby steps.**

When Christians start to walk, we need to take baby steps, careful not to try and do things too fast, getting it wrong, or we may discourage others who may be trying to follow us.

#### **5. When babies are first learning to walk, they don't talk like adults. They use baby talk.**

When Christians first start this walk, we don't talk like adult Christians. We have to read the Word, study to learn the meaning of scripture and have the Holy Spirit begin to remind us what the scriptures mean.

Those are five examples of why Christ said we need to become as children, but let's focus on #2, "growing" into new areas that we haven't walked in before. When we were in the world, we did childish things (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:11). We didn't come to church; we didn't attend Bible Study; we didn't come to prayer meetings or Sunday school; and we certainly didn't sing in the choir.

As Christians, we started to mature by coming to Church, Bible Study, prayer meetings, Sunday school, Choir Rehearsal, etc. We "grew" into those areas. Now that we've grown to this level of maturity it's time to take the "next step". We do this by growing into other areas we couldn't walk in before.

Jesus started the church to help with our FAITH.

Jesus feed the hungry, visited the sick, ministered to prisoners, helped strangers, spent time with widows and orphans to show us how to do MINISTRY WORK.

## FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.

Coming to Church, Prayer, Bible Study, Sunday School, Choir Rehearsal, are part of worship, which is part of our faith. Each of us must grow into the mature Christians we need to be in order to do ministry work. Hebrews 6:1-3 says let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity. Many Christians get stuck inside the walls of a church building getting trained over and over and over again to do ministry work that they never leave the pews to go do. You may ask, if coming to Church, attending Bible Study, prayer meetings, going to Sunday school, and participating in Choir Rehearsal isn't the ministry work we've been called to do, then what is it? I'll explain what it is:

- Church is worship (part of expressing our faith)
- Prayer is worship (part of expressing our faith)
- Sunday school is training (training to do what? Ministry work)
- Bible Study is training (training to do what? Ministry work)

Ministry work is about bearing fruit for God. If those of us who are in the body of Christ and have been trained in Sunday school and Bible study year after year never go outside the church to reach those who are not in the body of Christ, who will?

Most church members have become so comfortable with sitting in the pews and waiting, hoping that the lost will walk into the church, that they've created a ritual for it by "opening the doors of the church"? When the doors of the church open, we need to walk out to go the lost, not wait for them to come in. That is not what Jesus meant in the great commission. He said go into all the world, not just stay at church and wait on the lost to come to us. Most churches today, have gotten the meaning of the Great Commission backwards.

These are the levels of church that most Christians should follow:

- (1) New Member**
- (2) Service in the Church**
- (3) Serving in the Church**
- (4) Serving as Leadership in the Church**
- (5) Serving Outside the Church**

Because of the training at levels 1-4, most of us should be more than ready to walk into our calling and go in to the world and do the ministry work Jesus commanded in Matthew 25:35-36.

But, levels three is where most Christians get stuck at. Very few Christians at level 3 or 4, ever mature to level 5.

So week after week, year after year, Christians sit in the pews being taught the same things they've already learned many times before, never being told that they're supposed to graduate and **use** the training to do the work, continue the work, complete the work Jesus started.

Hebrews 5:11 to 6:3 warns us about it. **After all, what did you think all that Sunday school and Bible study training was for? All that training was for us to serve outside the church. This is where we bear fruit. It is for that reason that once we've gone through new member's class, participated in countless church services, served inside the church, and been in leadership roles in the church, we are more than ready to go out and bear fruit in ministry!**

Reaching the lost is the number one priority of every Christian.

**How many people have you led to Christ?** In Matthew 25:35-36 Jesus explained how to bear fruit by reaching the lost doing ministry work but most Christians miss the message:

Verse 35 - “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”

Verse 36 - “I needed clothes and you clothed me.”

“I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”

“I was sick and you looked after me.”

“I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

“I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

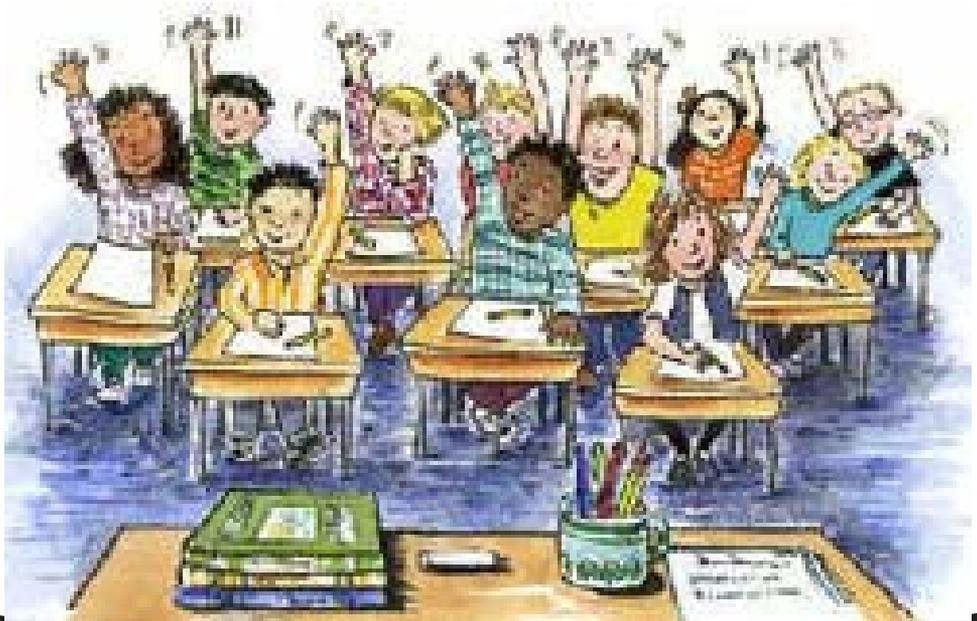
The last two areas of work are explained by the brother of Jesus in the book of James, Chapter 1:27, which says: “To look after orphans and widows.”

This is ministry work. It is what you have been trained and gifted to do.

# **BEARING FRUIT TRAINING**

## **LEVEL ONE**

### **NEW MEMBER**



## LEVEL ONE – New Member (KINDERGARTEN)

If you're a new member of a church, you should be taught that while you may have come to the church seeking one thing, your real reason for coming is to learn how to help save others now that you have been saved.

When we become members of the Body of Christ, most traditional churches require everyone to go through a new member's class. This class gives us the basic understanding of what we should be doing as Christians and gives some insight on the journey ahead. It begins our training in righteousness. Most of the time, this is where baptism happens to show an outward sign of our inward change.

Upon completion of this level, a **Completion Certificate** is given that says we've graduated new member's class.

In my book, *Welcome To Our Church* I suggest every church develop a new member's packet that contains information that new members need to know about that church. But the most important part of the packet should be helping new members understand their role as a member of the Body of Christ.

Without this type of training, new members will most likely get lost in the pews with other former new members, who are just sitting there waiting to be told what to do with all the training they are receiving in Sunday school, and Bible study.

Most churches and most Christians do not understand the difference between church and ministry. New members "especially" need to be taught the difference.



Brother Keith Hammond

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Brother Keith is a born again Christian. He is a Spirit-led man of God, teacher and author. His life has been transformed from things such as pride and prison to passion and purpose.

God is the author of the Bible. It is meant to be our instruction manual, our roadmap home. Without it, we are lost. Use the information in these books to help you and others.

God destroys the darkness behind us, to direct us toward our destiny ahead. So whatever you do on your journey, never turn back. God bless you in your walk with Christ. Amen.

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