

T.O.D.A.Y., I Will...

FEED ON GOD'S REQUIREMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Today, if you were fed ½ the daily value of required nutrition what would happen? Over time your body would start to feel sluggish, you would be susceptible to diseases, your mind would not think clearly, you would not act yourself, and it would be physically evident in how you look.

People eat the required daily value to satisfy their physical needs and to sustain life here on earth, but what about your spiritual life and your place of eternal rest? You can satisfy your spiritual hunger and sustain spiritual life only by a true relationship with Jesus Christ. You can not give ½ of yourself to the Lord-----

HE REQUIRES ALL OF YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH, TODAY!

John tells us in quite a few scriptures on what we need in order to *quench our thirst* and satisfy our hunger. John 6:26-27, 35, *“The truth is, you want to be with Me because I fed you, not because you saw the miraculous sign. But you shouldn’t be concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the Eternal life that I, the Son of Man, can give you. For God the Father sent Me for that very purpose.”*

“Jesus said, I am the Bread of Life. No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in Me will never thirst.”

John 7: 37-39, *“On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “If you are thirsty come to Me. If you believe in Me, come and drink! For the scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within.” “(When He said living water, He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to EVERYONE believing in Him!”)*

To be fed for Today, you must read and apply God’s word to your life---you must have daily prayer---you must be in real fellowship and worship---and you must feed upon the Fruit of the Spirit. The everlasting nourishment of your soul is placed in these key areas. Seek and pray for His guidance, wisdom, knowledge, discernment and enduring strength. Give Him your heart, soul and mind and He will be your Refuge, Fortress and Provider for all things.

Always remember what Hebrews 4:12 tells us, *“For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife cutting into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are.”*

His word and Spirit is real-living, life-changing, dynamic, and required as you allow them to work in you. God wants you to get rid of all things that are not of Him and accept the message He has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your souls (James 1:21).

Food costs money and lasts for a short time and it only meets our physical needs. But God offers you “free”

nourishment that will feed your soul (Isaiah 55: 1-6). The only way you get it is by calling on God----receiving and believing in the One who came to save your soul---Jesus Christ! You will starve spiritually without Him.

All that you need must be placed in God's hands because He is your source of spiritual power. Take care of your physical body because God has blessed you, but it is temporal. You must focus on what is eternal---and that is your soul! Plant these scriptures below in your heart and allow His strength to feed you on the real food---for true life!

Psalm 19: 7-8, 14, *“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commandments of the Lord are clear, giving insight to life. “May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my Rock and Redeemer!”*

Isaiah 40:31, *“But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength.”*

Psalm 46:1, *“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”*

Ezekiel 18: 31-32, *“Put all your rebellion behind you, and get for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign Lord. Turn back and live---TODAY!*

If you focus on the spiritual needs of your life through the power of God, He will re-direct you and give you a new heart, new soul, new mind and new strength to do anything (Philippians 4:13). However, it all starts with your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Be determined to live TODAY with Him in control of your mind and attitude, which will lead to a fully nourished and blessed life.

Look at each area of the study guide below and start to cultivate, plant, nurture and establish a fruitful attitude like Jesus Christ. Let the world see His real appearance, true character, continual growth, and the value of your fruitful mind in all that you say and do. And then you will see the blessings of your spiritual nourishment come to fruition.

CULTIVATE A FRUITFUL MIND

Planning and preparing are two key basic principles for achieving success. A solid plan with efficient preparation makes for a winning combination in attaining your objectives in life. Just like a farmer planning to cultivate his soil for the season, without a solid plan his preparations would be futile. The timing of his plans are in tact; he knows the best time to cultivate his soil. The farmer must:

- + Have complete **trust** in his ability to fulfill the job.
- + Be self-disciplined and **obedient** to the plan he's laid forth.
- + Be **dedicated** to the task---he will see it through from beginning to end.
- + **Accept** all of the requirements of what the job entails.
- + Have the ultimate **desire** to produce a crop that will yield a quality and sufficient crop.

He will settle for nothing less! The essence of his plans and preparation are imperative to the success of his crop.

If you look at this simple illustration, there is a correlation between the farmer's plans and the plans you put forth in cultivating a mind like Christ. While He's planning and preparing his earthly crop what steps have you put in place to plan and prepare your spiritual thoughts for TODAY? If you want to produce an abundance of glorious fruit for Jesus Christ you must first cultivate your fruitful mind.

It is good and productive to make plans and prepare for things in life, but they will disappoint you if God is left out of the process. You must know and believe that God has your future in His hands. What are your plans, TODAY? Do they involve God? Are you making the right preparations? If you want the cultivating of your fruitful mind to be more like God's, you must seek His guidance. The time for you to cultivate your godly mind is TODAY; and it is going to require a 100% commitment.

Proverbs 27:12, "A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precaution. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."

Incorporate into your heart and mind the discipline, dedication and diligence to plan & prepare your thought process more in line with God's. When you give Him your all He will give you the wisdom through this process to take the right steps. Each day it will become your heart's desire to please Him with a quantity & quality of fruitfulness.

Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do."

Your heart dictates and controls the love(s) and desire(s) of your life. This love and desire can affect the way you think, the

way you live, and the choices you make. If you do not cultivate your mind to produce Godly thoughts you will not succeed in this journey. All of your planning and preparation should be focused on God's word---His Almighty power will lead your paths.

You must establish boundaries on your desires! Remember, you can not appease your sinful desires and the ways of God at the same time. **Don't pursue everything in life; ONLY pursue the ways of God.** Let Heaven fill your mind first! If you choose the right steps in cultivating a godly mind you will yield the "*real-life*" in Jesus Christ.

Don't succumb to the corruptive ways of the world because if you do your first steps of Godly planning & preparation are in vain. Turn the ways of the world off; educate and refine your mind with thoughts of; faithfulness---righteousness---holiness---godliness---Christ-likeness---& fruitfulness.

Cultivating your fruitful mind with Godly thoughts is like a road map to victory in Jesus Christ.

Faithfulness – your heart & mind must **trust, believe, and rely** on God---and you will share in all that belongs to Christ.

Hebrews 3:14-15

Righteousness – you are made right with God when you believe in Jesus Christ, accept Him as your Savior & confess your sins to Him. It will prepare you to make righteous choices. Romans 10:8-13 and Romans 5:17

Holiness – once you are made right with God and you allow Christ to go to work in your life, the Holy Spirit will help you with Godly thoughts, Romans 6:22. God is holy and you should be holy. Living a life of holiness is a life of purity; and this step will help you to make solid plans for God's glory. (Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23)

Godliness – a mindset of obedience and devotion will help you to know God more. 1 Tim. 6:11. Pursue a Godly life by devoting more time to prayer, time in His word, true worship, and "*real*" fellowship with other believers; it will strengthen your Godly mindset.

Fruitfulness – this is the result of your productive and useful service through the Holy Spirit. When you have given your all to Christ, and you're allowing Him to lead your life through, each element of the Fruit of the Spirit will be revealed in all that you say and do, TODAY! Galatians 5:22-23

Christ-Likeness – the perfect role model to plan in your life TODAY. As you know God more the power of His Spirit, He will help you with wisdom and knowledge that will prepare your mind to be more productive and useful for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; He's the model for you to portray in life, because He's given you the power to do so, TODAY! Galatians 2:20

The evil one will do everything in his power to prevent you from cultivating your fruitful mind. He wants you to rely on your sinful desires and steer you to making choices that leads to an unholy and impure life. In other words, he only wants you to plan and prepare for his world of doom and gloom; not your new life in Christ. So, how can you stay on the righteous path of

God's glory? Plan, prepare and promote your mind in a godly way through:

- + Daily reading of God's word---apply its meaning to your "real-life"
 - o Discipline yourself to a daily schedule in studying His Holy word.
- + Prayer
 - o Commit quality time with God---ongoing **daily** communication is essential to "real" success.
- + "Real" fellowship with Christian believers
 - o Detach yourself from ungodly things and surround yourself with strong believers.
- + "Real" and true worship
 - o Devoted time to praising God your Father and thanking Him for all He's going to do in your life will prepare your mindset for the journey ahead.
- + You must commit wholeheartedly to the power of His Holy Spirit.
 - o When you allow the Holy Spirit to consume your thought process you will experience results of righteous, holy, godly, Christ-Like and fruitful living.

Commit, plan, prepare, and discipline yourself to the cultivating of your new mind. Your new way of thinking will develop a desire in doing God's will. Honor God in everything you do in life and don't give in to those old desires that have corrupted your mind for years.

Romans 6:13, *"Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God."*

Romans 7:6, *Now we can really serve God, not in the old way, but in the new way, by the Spirit.*

Isaiah 58:13, *"Honor the Lord in everything you do, and don't follow your own desires."*

God will give you a new heart, a new nature, a new desire, and a new thought process. Your old ways of thinking and doing are gone! Place God first and you will be enabled to build up a thought process that will develop the first stage of your "real-life" in Christ.

Proverbs 4:25-27, *"Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and stay safe. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil."*

I Corinthians 9:24-27, *"Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, **but we do it for***

an eternal prize. *So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should."*

Set your goal on winning the eternal prize; it requires a "real" commitment, a "real" desire, a "real" plan, "real" preparation, and "real" discipline. It all starts with your mindset. If you don't have a Godly mind you will struggle with the challenges this world has to offer. Only God's strength can help you to effectively plan and prepare for the evil storms that come your way.

Ephesians 6:10-11, *"Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil."*

When you rely on God's powering strength it will equip and prepare your mind against the mindset of the world. Always remember, you can not accomplish your goals without God's help.

Psalm 60:12; *"With God's help we will do mighty things."*

If you implement the "real" steps of commitment into your heart and mind then your "real" goal of living will start to develop an impacting life for the glory of God.

Psalm 37:5 tells us *"Commit everything to the Lord. Trust Him and He will help you."*

You cannot prepare for anything in life unless you completely commit and discipline your mind to the goal and that is living a fruitful life for Jesus Christ. Jesus sums it up by telling us in Matthew 16:24-26, *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross and follow Me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for Me, you will find true life. And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?"*

God wants the best for you and that is the true and "real-life" in His Son Jesus Christ. His pathway of living is your ultimate goal. Let Him guide you through this journey and His production will come to fruition in your life, TODAY.

Psalm 32:8, *"The Lord says, "I will guide you along the **best** pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."*

Psalm 138:8, *"The Lord will work out His plans for my life."*

Proverbs 21:5, *"Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty."*

Proverbs 14:22, *"If you plot evil, you will be lost; but if you plan good, you will be granted unfailing love and faithfulness."*

Always remember, regardless of what the world is telling you, if your plans are in line with God, He will work them out and they will be good! Trust Him and your plans will yield a marvelous life in Jesus Christ.

Trust the Lord every step of the way, pray for His guidance, devote your mind to Him, and He will direct you with the wisdom and knowledge for TODAY. You have the power through His Spirit to commit, plan, prepare and discipline your mind. It will become your desire to please Him, **NOTHING ELSE.**

Titus 2:12, *“And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God.”*

God has instructed each one of us to stay away from anything that keeps us from righteous and holy living. God’s word is your source of wisdom and understanding. Submit to Him and He will lead you in promoting Godly thoughts. This is a great opportunity for you to impact your life, and others, for the glory of God.

Acts 20:24, *“My life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus.”*

God’s calling you to live a fruitful life for Jesus Christ---that is His assignment for you, TODAY! If you choose Him, He will fill your thoughts with the desire and energy to do His work.

The cultivating of your fruitful mind is the first and very important step in developing a quality of service for God. He will give you strength and guidance where you need it, BUT it must be a wholehearted commitment. For this, He will honor and bless your journey that will change your life---FOREVER!

2 Chronicles 16:9, *“The eyes of the Lord searches the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”*

Deuteronomy 6:5-6, *“And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you TODAY!”*

Deuteronomy 26:16-19, *“TODAY, the Lord your God has commanded you to obey all these laws and regulations. You must commit yourself to them without reservations. You have declared TODAY that the Lord is your God. You have promised to obey His laws, commands and regulations by walking in His ways and doing everything He tells you. The Lord has declared TODAY that you are His people, His own special treasure, just as He promised, and that you must obey all His commands. And if you do, He will make you greater than any other nation. Then you will receive praise, honor, and renown. You will be a nation that is holy to the Lord your God, just as He promised.”*

2 Timothy 2:5-7, *“Follow the Lord’s rules for doing His work, just as an athlete either follows the rules or is disqualified and wins no prize. **Hardworking farmers are the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor.** Think about what I am saying. The Lord will give you understanding in all these things.”*

As you plan and prepare to cultivate your mind, you must establish within yourself the ultimate objective, which is living a

life of fruitfulness for Jesus Christ! Are you committed and disciplined to take the journey for the glory of God? Start TODAY!

List 9 things you will do TODAY to start cultivating a fruitful mind like Christ!

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PLANT A FRUITFUL MIND LIKE CHRIST

✚ A good seed will produce a good crop---a Godly seed will yield a fruitful life for Jesus Christ.

— A bad seed will produce a bad crop---an evil seed produces a sinful life.

You will harvest whatever type of seed you plant---TODAY! Is it good or bad?

Galatians 6:8, *“Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature, but those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.”*

The evil one wants you to plant seeds of spiritual death by living in the sinful desires that will destroy you because he does not want you to prosper for the glory of God. It is very important that your mindset is focused on the planting of your fruitful mind with Godly thoughts, for it is the only way you will survive in an evil world that is always planting bad things into your mind.

Once you've cultivated your fruitful mind, now you're ready to plant the seeds that will establish your new fruitful nature in Jesus Christ. The planting of your fruit is going to require a Godly motive and that means of motivation is the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit is His guarantee that you belong to Him and He will do what He promised. The presence of the Holy Spirit planted in you will demonstrate the genuineness of your faithfulness, righteousness, holiness, godliness, Christ-Likeness and fruitfulness. When you are driven by the power of His Spirit you will see the planting of your fruit produce an expectation that will bring glory and honor to God.

Just like a farmer who plants seeds before a new season; he's motivated by the work it entails and the expectations of the final results. The quality and quantity of his crop can provide a financial source of stability. Once again we see a parallel between the farmer and us. While the farmers planting can produce an abundance of new earthly crop, the planting of your fruitful mind will raise you to new spiritual life in Jesus Christ because of God's guarantee through His Spirit. Let God fill your mind with His Way; not the ways of the world.

Remember what God's word tells us in Colossians 3:1-10, *‘Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ is at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think about things down here on earth. For you died when Christ died, and your “real-life” is hidden with Christ in God.*

And when Christ, who is your real-life, is revealed to the world, you will share in His glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impure thoughts, lust and shameful desires. Don't be greedy

for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry. God's terrible anger will come upon those who do such things. You used to do them when your life was part of this world.

*But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage malicious behavior, slander and dirty language. Don't lie to each, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. **In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.***

The results of your planting will be a new nature in Jesus Christ. He will develop and shape your Godly thoughts, and your behavior will be renewed.

Are you planting earthly seeds into your mind **OR** the Spiritual seeds of His Fruit? Are you placing the Fruit of His Spirit soundly in your mind? Have you concealed and planted God deep in your heart? The only way you're going to flourish in your "real-life" is by grounding yourself in God's word and following His ways.

Your "real" motivation in planting your fruitful mind should be developed in these areas:

- + What you plant in your heart and mind should be centered in Jesus Christ—nothing else.
- + Plant daily prayer into your life; spend quality time with Christ.
- + Plant your life in true fellowship with other believers. It is a strong source of fruitful support.
- + Plant the power of His Spirit in your heart, mind, and soul and allow Him to bear His wonderful fruit. You can not produce a fruitful life on your own.
- + Plant your life in true worship. Praise God and give Him thanks for all He's doing in your life.
- + Plant the word of God deep into your heart and mind and watch your life prosper.

Psalm 1:2-3, "*But they delight in doing everything the Lord wants; day and night they think about His law. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper.*"

TODAY, more than ever, you need to plant the word of God into your mind and heart; it is imperative for survival in this world. Godly seeds will provide you with His wisdom and knowledge in bearing the "real" & fruitful life. This world does not want you to succeed, for it is often presenting sinful life-styles, which are totally opposed to God's word.

We are bombarded and surrounded by a slew of sinful ways. Be very careful on what you plant in your mind. With TV, music, movies, websites, all types of reading material, and the rest of the negative ridden media, you have to stay true and in tune

to the “*real-life*” planted in your heart and mind, which is God’s word. His word is the ONLY standard of Truth in life, TODAY!

It is your responsibility to plant Godly seeds in your life. What type of seeds does He want you to plant TODAY? He wants you to plant the Godly seeds of; righteousness, goodness, purity, peace, consideration for others, submission, mercy, and sincerity. He **does not** want your life to bear seeds of; bitterness, jealousy, self-ambition, evilness, earthly desires, and impure thoughts.

James 3:13, *“If you are wise and understand God’s ways, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth.” And if you don’t brag about the good you do, then you will be truly wise. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your hearts, don’t brag about being wise. That is the worst kind of lie. For jealousy and selfishness is not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and motivated by the Devil. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere. **And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap of harvest of goodness.**”*

It is so easy for each one of us to be drawn into our sinful desires. That is why the planting of your fruitful mind should be centered in God’s word and daily submission to His Holy Spirit. You must have a mind and heart set firm on the righteous path of God, and not on the path of destruction.

Hosea 10:12; *Plant the good seeds of righteousness and you will harvest a crop of My love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that He may come and shower righteousness upon you.”*

Seek the Lord with His seeds of righteousness, have pure motives, and He will produce fruitfulness in your life that is unimaginable. It will exemplify the power of God’s Almighty Hand at work in your new life. What a magnificent plant to put on display for God’s glory.

Matthew 13:31, *“The kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants and grows into a tree where birds can come and find the shelter in its branches.”*

This is a parable Jesus used that is unfathomable for the human mind. The mustard seed is the smallest seed a farmer used, but Jesus used this illustration to show us that His Kingdom has small beginnings, but will grow and produce spectacular results. What kind of seeds are you planting in your mind and heart TODAY? Are they reaping a glorious harvest of fruitfulness? If you’re trusting and obeying God, you will reap an unbelievable harvest in life.

Matthew 25:29, *“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But for those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.”*

Plant the word of Truth deep into your mind and heart and His Spirit will flourish your life with an abundance of glory. Put your new and fruitful mind at work, TODAY, and watch the Lord blossom it beyond your imagination. Give God the glory, honor and praise for all He's doing in your "real-life" in Christ, TODAY.

List 9 things you will plant in your mind TODAY that will help you to develop a fruitful mind.

Influence others for His glory!

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NURTURE YOUR FRUITFUL MIND

Food and water are essential for daily living. Even the type of foods we put into our bodies is important to the longevity of our lives; it is something that nourishes, sustains, and supplies our vitality. If you consume bad food or bad water, in many cases, you can become ill or even more tragically it could lead to death. If you consume good food and pure water into your body it gives you great strength and energy.

People in the world are more concerned today than ever on the type of food or drink they put into their physical body. It is a top priority for those who want to live a healthy life because they want to feel good, look good, and keep their bodies clean. If people would shift that mindset to their spiritual nourishment, how much more; **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control** would there be in the world TODAY? Would we see more Christ-Likeness in the world? Remember, God cares about your physical upkeep, but it is the state of your spirituality that is more important than anything else.

If the world fed off the energy and power of God's word, the power of His Spirit, the power of prayer, and the power of "real" worship and fellowship, it would receive all of the daily requirements of spiritual nourishment needed for **eternal survival; and that source is only found in Jesus Christ**. What type of nourishment does the world need, TODAY? GOD! He will hold us accountable on what we put into our spiritual lives!

Judges 17:6, *"The people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."*

Proverbs 12:15, *"Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others."*

You are responsible for the nurturing of your mind, which is feeding it the word of God and protecting it from the ways of the world. Through His powering word and Spirit you will draw closer to Jesus Christ and this closeness will help you to be more accountable and secure in your spiritual nourishment. If you neglect God in your daily life you will lean more towards sin, and the consequences of sin can hurt you, others, and even God.

Don't let the trash of this world get into your head, for it will only present more conflict, despair, and confusion. There will always be a constant battle in your mind if you allow this to happen. Satan will bombard your thought process with an over-exaggerative mind. You must apply His Holy word deep into your heart and mind and it will feed you with each element of His fruit. As a "real" child of God give your all to Him by obeying His word.

I John 2:3, *"How can we be sure we belong to Him? By obeying His commandments."*

If you are obeying His word then you are feeding your mind with the spiritual nourishment you need for TODAY. His word will teach and help you to stay away from the wickedness that surrounds you. When you allow God to guide you with His

advice, and not the evil one, He takes joy in this!

Psalm 1:1; *“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked.”*

If you adhere to the advice of this world, and allow it to influence your mind, then you are going to starve yourself from the Truth. Don't let the evil one deceive your mind with his lies because if you do you're on a path of spiritual starvation. Feed your spirit on the bread of life and the living water, which is Jesus Christ!

John 6:35, *Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry again.”* John 4:10, 13 *“If you only knew the gift of God has for you and who I am, you would ask Me, and I would give you living water. The water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life.”*

Only Jesus Christ can give you the eternal nourishment of your soul's desires. Your soul will never hunger and thirst again. When you are joined together with Christ you will be fed, nourished, and you will continue to grow in Him.

John 15:5; *“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

Apart from Christ your life is unfruitful. Are you receiving the nourishment needed for living the “*real-life*”? Is it at the top of your priority list? The nurturing of your fruitful mind must be in Christ; nothing else. **If you're “really” feeding on Him, then you are truly living in Him!** He will give you everything needed for TODAY---**nothing less!**

Matthew 6:33, *“He will give you all you need TODAY, if you live for Him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.”*

God is your Sustainer and Provider in life. You must trust Him TODAY to provide for all of your needs; most importantly your spiritual needs. Praise God for the nourishment He will provide through His Holy word and the power of His Spirit. Continue to pray for your daily supply of nourishment, which will help you to exemplify a mindset of fruitfulness in a world of confusion. Through Him, He will nourish your heart, soul, mind and strength, TODAY!

John 4:34, *“My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent Me, and from finishing His work.”*

The power of God will lead you to living a fruitful life to the very end. God's will for you is to bring His work of salvation to completion. Without His nourishment in these areas below you will not survive in this world TODAY!

- + You need the daily feeding of God's word. It will help you to grow spiritually.
- + Devoted prayer is a requirement for drawing strength from God.
- + “Real” worship and fellowship will give you a source of spiritual nourishment to survive.

✦ Complete submission to His Holy Spirit is essential to living an effective and energized life for Christ.

Now you're ready to help Jesus Christ finish His work on the earth. Your nourished mind will give you the energy and focus to succeed and LIVE the "real-life" in this world.

List 9 things you will do TODAY to nurture your fruitful mind. Don't starve yourself from the Truth!

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ESTABLISH A STABLE & FRUITFUL MIND

Life is full of changes and few things remain stable in this world. It is continually revolving around “new waves” of everything. People are always changing in their values, moral beliefs, and standards in life; even the earthly laws change. The ways of the world are discontent, unstable, and indecisive. Nothing on this earth is consistent; it is always evolving to the way people think, react, and choose in their daily lives. This sinful world has created a society of unstableness.

The stability of your fruitful mind is a key step to your thought process in being grounded with the unchanging ways of God’s word. His word is the same yesterday, the same tomorrow, and the same TODAY. He’s the stable One; the immovable One; the unchanging One, and His word provides you with security and comfort that the secular world can not begin to comprehend. God’s nature is trustworthy and He is your firm foundation.

This society of instability will soon come to pass, but God is the everlasting One. If you’re feeling alone and unstable because of worldly events, God’s promise should re-assure your mind and heart that He is with you. He will help you in any area of your life that’s imbalanced. Remember, He’s your Stable Rock through all of life’s storms!

Psalm 102:25-27, *“In ages past you laid the foundation of the earth, and the Heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will fade away. But you are always the same; your years never end!”*

Is your mind positioned strongly on His firm foundation? Is it steadfast in God’s word? Are you allowing the power of His Spirit to lead and teach you in your thought process? Has the cultivating, planting, and nurturing of your fruitful mind established Godly thoughts that are resistant to the ways of this world? Are they now more reliable and dependable than ever before? Is your mindset positioned solidly in Christ so the evil one can not influence the way you think?

TODAY, your thought process should be more balanced to the ways of God and content with everything you have in Jesus Christ. Your mindset should be persistent in fighting off the negative, distorted, and evilness of the world. How can you know? God’s word will provide you with a stable and fruitful mind. “Real” thoughts through God’s Almighty power, is the only way to overcome the bad things in this society because your roots are well established in Him.

Proverbs 12:3, *“Wickedness never brings stability; only the godly have deep roots.”*

A Godly mind rooted deep in your heart will provide you with the stability in living a fruitful life. God will stabilize your thoughts so you don’t think of ways to indulge your evil desires. He will help you with wavering or doubtful thoughts. When your mind gets off course the power of His Spirit will convict, counsel, and correct your thinking. Once you commit yourself wholeheartedly to God, you will experience a balance of Godly thoughts that will help you to establish a firm foundation in Jesus

Christ. It is not easy, for the ways of the world is always filling our minds with absolute trash---garbage---filth---temptations---evilness; they can sway your thoughts and create a doubtful mind.

James 1:6, *“A doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, for they can’t make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do.”*

A doubtful mind is not completely convinced that God’s way is the best. It treats God the way the world does; ignoring, denying, and disobeying its Truth. If you are struggling with a doubtful mind take it to God, pray for His guidance, strength & wisdom, apply His word to your life and let the power of the Holy Spirit lead you from wavering thoughts. Don’t let the old sinful nature take over, for you are grounded in the stability of Jesus Christ through the power of His Spirit.

Romans 8:6, *“If your sinful nature controls your mind there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.”*

Ephesians 4:3, *“Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.”*

Stand firm against the evilness in this world. You must be steadfast in God’s word and yielding to His Holy Spirit. Remember, the evil one will do his best to lure you away from living a life for God. You have to be true to the One that will give you the strength of stability for TODAY!

Ephesians 6:11, 13, *“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. Use every piece of God’s armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness.”*

All of God’s righteousness will provide you with a balanced life. Your imbalanced mind to the ways of the world is gone! You have allowed God’s word and Spirit to work in you. Isn’t it wonderful to have a peaceful mind that is focused on things that are pure and loving? The stability of your *“real”* mind in Jesus Christ will produce a life that is pleasing to God.

To remain fruitful, Jesus Christ must be the center-point of your life. That is the only way you will have complete balance, consistency, contentment, and stability.

Luke 12:34, *“Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.”*

Don’t allow your list of unstable items (sinful desires) to creep up and establish a life of imbalance. Continue to live with the level of stability that is secure, content and stable in Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:10, *“Since I know it is all for Christ’s good, I am quite content with my weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities.”*

Philippians 4:11-13, *“I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.”*

Hebrews 13:5, *“Be satisfied with what you have.”*

So often imbalance comes into our lives when we become discontented with what we have. When you depend on Christ for contentment and stability you are secure because He will never fail you. He will establish the “*real*” balance in your life, TODAY!

Romans 13:14, *“Let the Lord Jesus Christ take control of you, and don’t think of ways to indulge your evil desires.”*

If you allow Christ to control your mind, He will help you to live a life of stability. TODAY, if you’re struggling with a mindset of inconsistency, discontentment, confusion, despair, and conflict give it to Jesus and let Him take reign over your mind. Stay away from the lifestyle that prevents you from a balanced mindset in Christ, for this will only lead to an imbalanced and complacent life that is going nowhere.

2 Thessalonians 3:6, *“Stay away from any Christian who lives in idleness and doesn’t follow the tradition of hard work we gave you.”*

God does not want you live a life of complacency; He wants you to thrive on His word, strive for Christ’s perfection, and allow His Spirit to guide you with “*real*” stableness. Complacency can lead to a disastrous future. Don’t be satisfied with yourself, for it will only create a life of insecurity and unsteadiness. When you center your life in Jesus Christ, and you’re united with the power of His Spirit, you will establish a fruitful mind of stability through His strength. Is your life balanced in Christ, TODAY?

List 9 things you will do TODAY that will help you to have a stable & fruitful mind. Be steadfast in Him!

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THE APPEARANCE OF YOUR FRUITFUL ATTITUDE

We work very hard in life to portray an outer appearance that is attractive, but what's at the core of your heart is what God wants more than anything else. He cares what's inside, which will be revealed in your fruitful service for His glory. Remember, your soul is eternal, not your earthly body.

However, this doesn't mean that God does not want you to take care of your physical body. Remember, your body is the temple of God, for it is a living and holy sacrifice.

When you become a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. Therefore, you no longer own your body because it belongs to God, I Corinthians 6:19-20. And because of this you must honor God by not violating His standards of living. What is His standard of living? By exemplifying the light and love of Jesus Christ in the way He lived. The "real" appearance of your fruitful attitude will depict a person who is modeling the lifestyle of purity, righteousness, holiness, godliness, Christ-Likeness and fruitfulness. This means that you will honor God in all aspects of your life and you will not consume yourself with the sinful desires that dishonor Him, Galatians 5:19-21.

I John 1:2, *"Dear friend, I am praying that all is well with you and that your body is as healthy as I know your soul is."*

TODAY, God does not want you to neglect the physical health of your body. If you ignore your physical health, which God has blessed you with, soon there will be the indulgence of the body's sinful desires. Does God want you to over-consume things that **are not** physically and spiritually good for you, which can create your bad habits and bad choices in life? You must always remember that God cares about the appearance of both your physical and spiritual nature. As a responsible Christian in this world today, you should neither nor indulge yourself, but care for your physical needs and commit and discipline your body so **you are at your best for God's service**. That is the fruitful appearance He is looking for you in you TODAY! If your heart is right with God you will care about your inner and outer appearance in life. You want the world to see a changed person through the work of God's Almighty Hands!

Romans chapter 12 clearly illustrates that we must allow God's Spirit to transform the way we think so we **will not** copy the ways of the world. When you come to Christ, He will make you different inside and your behavior will conform to a life of His holiness. He will continue His change within you, if you choose Him. He wants you to have Godly thoughts and a Christ-Like attitude on display so the world can see His magnificent work in your new life. Is the appearance of your attitude revealing "real" fruitfulness, TODAY? If your complete submission is to the power of His Spirit then the "real" appearance of you is portraying a person who is accountable to the ways of God

How does the world see you? Do they see a person who is exemplifying an attitude opposite of the world? Do they see

someone who is “*real*” in their love for others? Has anyone ever walked up to you and asked this question, “Why are you so happy and joyous?” How about when someone says, “I wished I could be more like you with my choice of words and actions.” In other words, do you have a Christ-Like reputation? **Is your Christ-Like appearance infectious in a world that needs healing, TODAY?**

1 Peter 2:11-12, “*They will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God.*”

The best way to influence the way others think of you is by your good and Christ-Like behavior. When your Christ-Like appearance is portraying a fruitful attitude, this is a great opportunity for you to share the Good News about Jesus Christ. You want this hurting world to see Christ’s work in you so it can portray an outer appearance of His masterful plan. What a beautiful sight in God’s eyes to see how His Almighty power at work, which is present in the “*real*” you!

Colossians 3:12-15, “*Since God chose you to be the holy people whom He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. You must make allowance for each others faults, and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.*”

Clothe yourself with the true appearance of a Christ-Like attitude. Let the reality of Christ be seen in you TODAY. Don’t portray a hypocritical life; don’t live one way inwardly and another way outwardly. If Jesus Christ is truly in your heart and mind, He will be revealed in the appearance of your fruitful attitude. Your “*real*” faith in Christ will be portrayed and displayed in a powerful way, which is pleasing to God. Don’t live a phony life that is displeasing to God!

Living faith makes a difference and can be very impactful in how your life appears to others. Is your faith just a mere statement or is it revealed in your attitude; **is it in action, TODAY?** If you read the letters of Philippians and James you will be able to encapsulate the “*realness*” and appearance of your fruitful attitude. You should use God’s word as the measuring-stick of how the world sees the “*real*” you.

James 2:14-17, “*What’s the use of saying you have faith if you don’t prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can’t save anyone. Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, “Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well”, but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see; it isn’t enough to just have faith. Faith that doesn’t show itself by good deed is no faith at all---it is dead and useless.*”

“*Real*” faith will transform your actions and attitude, as well as your thoughts. You cannot earn your way to eternity through good deeds or service. Faith without good deeds is dead---goodness without godliness is nothing. Living a life of fruitful

service unto others is not a substitute for, but it solidifies your faith in Jesus Christ. The appearance of your “*real*” faith should be alive, TODAY.

Does the world see a person who is confidently positioned in Christ? Does the world see a “*real*” Christian at work? Is your choice of words the same at home, on the job, and on the streets as they are in the house of God? Does the world see a true believer that is submissive and not confrontational? Are you truly living, giving and sharing the ultimate & glowing joy you have in Jesus Christ? In other words are you a “*real*” genuine child of God **portraying** a Christ-Like attitude from the heart?

It is real easy to appear to be a Christian when things are going good, but how do you act under extreme pressure? When satan turns up the heat in your life what is the appearance of your attitude? Does it alter as things change from good to bad, **OR** bad to good? Do you have ultimate joy in suffering? Do you have “*real*” joy in serving? Do you have true joy in believing? Are you a lukewarm Christian **OR** on fire for God, regardless? Are you shining His light of brilliance—no matter what happens in life, TODAY?

Philippians 2:14-15, *“In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing, so that no one can speak of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them.”*

Is the appearance of your fruit pleasing to God? If you are struggling in areas of hypocrisy, (as a child of God you know), then only God’s power can help you to change your ugly appearance to the “*real*” appearance of His beauty. Without Him you are living an ugly life of sin. With Him you are portraying a new nature of His splendor.

Colossians 3:9-10, *“You have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand new-nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.”*

Because of your new and “*real*” appearance you are no longer conformed to the world’s standards, but transformed by the renewing of your mind and heart and living a life of fruitfulness that only He can mold. What a masterpiece of glorious art He has made! Display and portray the appearance of Christ in you, TODAY!

List 9 things you will do TODAY that clearly indicates you're exemplifying a Christ-Like appearance.

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THE CHARACTER OF YOUR FRUITFUL ATTITUDE

Developing and living your “*real*” character begins with God’s work in you. It requires obedience to His word and allowing the Holy Spirit to produce a Christ-Like character. Your fruitful attitude should be full of humbleness and willingness, just as Christ was.

Psalm 25:9, “*He leads the humble in what is right, teaching them His way.*”

1 Peter 5:5-6, “*All of you, serve each other in humility, for God sets Himself against the proud, but He shows favor to the humble. So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in His good time He will honor you.*”

A humble attitude of serving others will bring glory, honor, and praise to the Father; and He will honor you, as well. Have a character of respect, leniency and a willingness to learn from others. You don’t know everything, for only the Father does. Don’t let pride, greed, and selfishness drive a wedge into the character of your fruitful life, for this is the deceitful ways of satan. Exemplify the Christ-Like character of fruitfulness; **DO NOT** compromise to the ways of the world.

Your Christ-Like character must be evident in every aspect. It should not be one of; anger, resentment, offensive behavior, and any type of disruption that causes division, friction, dissension, and animosity. The character of your fruitful attitude is one of self-control---spiritual and moral standards. It is a good life of witnessing to others about the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is righteous living and “*real*” relationships in accordance to God’s word. It is fulfilling your God given duties to the government of the land and mankind (Romans chapter 13).

How does God want you to behave in life, TODAY? It is your personal responsibility to be a living and holy sacrifice to God. In Romans chapter 12 Paul gives us practical guidelines for living in a hurting world. We are to give ourselves to Christ and use the gifts that he’s provided so that each one of us can build-up His kingdom. If anything, God wants your character in this life to reveal Christ-Like love that will impact others for His glory.

Romans 12:9-12, “*Don’t just pretend, but “really” love everyone. Hate what is wrong and stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. Serve the Lord enthusiastically and be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble and always be prayerful. When God’s children are in need, be the one to help them out.*”

Be genuine in your character like Jesus Christ! Your “*real-life*” in the world should reflect Christ’s love in every aspect. What are you doing TODAY to exemplify a Christ-like character of love? Who you “*really*” are is what the world sees.

Your character is the “*real*” test of this fruitful process; it is the stage of true measurement. What are some significant features of your character? What do others see in your personality that differentiates you from the world? Are they God’s

characteristics of: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control?** The quality of your Christ-Like character will clearly be demonstrated and exemplified in all that you say and do, TODAY.

1 Peter 2:21-23, *“Christ, who suffered for you is your example. Follow in His footsteps...He did not retaliate when He was insulted. When He suffered, He did threaten to get even. He left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.”*

Ephesians 5:1, *“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.”*

No matter what you may be going through in life the character of your fruit needs to be the example of Jesus Christ. With all that He went through for you and me, He acted out of humility, kindness, love, goodness, gentleness, forgiveness and peace. Isn't this the character for us to follow in life, TODAY?

How much can you endure so others will see the attitude of your Christ-Like character? God will use difficulties in your life to build the character of your fruit. They will help you to persevere in the name of Christ and you will grow stronger and it will deepen your trust in His Almighty work. Thank God He is building the character of your fruitful attitude TODAY so you can grow and deal with them in His own strength.

Romans 5:3-4, *“We can rejoice too when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us---they help us to learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation.”*

How can you develop the character of your fruit?

Deuteronomy 8:2, *“Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would really obey His commands.”*

You are not born with a godly character; it is developed through your trials and the ultimate commitment of knowing Him through His word and the power of His Spirit. Then and only then will you be ready for what the world throws your way.

James 1:4, *“When your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.”*

When your Christ-Like character is **fully-developed** your fruitful attitude is rooted deep within your heart. How you react in your behavior displays the “real” you. Do you encourage others? Are you a cooperative person at home, on the job, in the church, on the streets, with your neighbors, and with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you getting along with “everyone”? Are you helping others in need? Have you made a positive impact in life? Is the character of your fruitful attitude pleasing to Christ? Are you making a “real” difference in life, TODAY? How do you know?

Matthew 5:48, *“But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

In this life we cannot have a flawless character. However, you can aspire to have more of a Christ-Like character by separating yourself from the personal values of this world. God wants you to excel and that is being more like Christ.

SO you can not let the world sway your characteristics in life.

Your goal is to differentiate your Christ-Like character from the characteristics of the world. Your heart and mind must be in-line with the harmony of His righteousness, holiness, godliness, Christ-Likeness and fruitfulness. Forget about your old character; now you're a new and "real" character in Jesus Christ displaying the fruits of your labor; all because of what He has done through you.

1 Timothy 1:12-16, *"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life."* God can and will do mighty things in you TODAY. Through His Almighty love, mercy & grace He's differentiating you from the world. The Godly character of your new mind sets the standard of your Christ-Like attitude and His attitude should be your goal for TODAY!

II Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

I Chronicles 29:5, *"Who will follow my example? Who is willing to give offerings to the Lord, TODAY?"*

List 9 things you will do TODAY to live with a Christ-Like character. Remember, Jesus Christ is your model.

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GROWING YOUR FRUITFUL ATTITUDE

As we grow from our childhood to teenage and eventually our adult life, we understand more through life's experiences. Our level of maturity is continually enhancing each passing day. We learn from our bad choices, and we try to expand on our good choices. From either choice, we grow and look for ways to improve our lives in a more productive fashion.

But what is your ultimate objective from life's experiences? What do you hope to ascertain or gain as you grow in life? Do you want more wealth or do you want more materialistic things? Do you hope to elevate your position on the job or in society? Where do you see yourself tomorrow, next month, next year, 5 years from now, 10 years from now, or even 20+ years from now?

More importantly, look at your spiritual life TODAY. What are you doing in order to grow closer to the Lord?

Spiritual growth is essential to sustaining a fruitful life in Jesus Christ. As we illustrated earlier, it begins in faith and eventually culminates in Christ-Like fruitfulness. In order to progress in your spiritual walk you must remain diligent to all of God's ways! He will mold your appearance and character into the likeness of His holiness. He will prepare you to grow and live with an attitude like Jesus Christ. He has freed you from the grips of sin and He's enabled you to grow in your relationship with Him. By obeying His word and trusting in the power of His Holy Spirit you can overcome those weak areas and continue the growth of your fruitful attitude, but it is going to require your undivided attention and wholehearted obedience.

You must obtain the power of discernment, which is knowing the difference between right and wrong. You are at a stage where spiritual growth is imperative in life. Can you recognize temptation before it snares you into its world of despair, conflict, and confusion? This is a very important process as you prepare to display your fruitful attitude for the glory of God.

Are you securing your level of growth in God's word? Are you listening to the Holy Spirit when He speaks? Has your Godly thoughts flourished to the point where others see your Christ-Like attitude? As your new life grows, let others see the increasing size of your attitude. Let the heights of His splendor be seen in you, TODAY.

Proverbs 11:28, *"But the godly flourish like leaves in spring."*

2 Thessalonians 1:3, *"We are thankful that your faith is flourishing and you are all growing in love for each other."*

Your attitude TODAY should exemplify flourishing and loving ways of Christ. If you have a Christ-Like attitude of love in your heart and mind you will display a "real-life" that is pleasing to God. This world does not have the love of Christ; it only loves the things of this world. How can you grow your fruitful attitude if you enwrap your love in ungodly things?

If you're "really" growing in Christ your expectations should be higher than average. Remember, **the world's average is not what God is looking for**--He is looking for the "real" attitude. It should include: (1) increasing your knowledge and understanding of God's word, (2) increasing your practice of a Christ-like attitude, and (3) increasing in your faith and trust in

God when you make Spiritual choices. The best summary of spiritual growth is becoming more like Jesus Christ---He is the supreme example of living the “*real-life*”.

1 Corinthians 11:1, *"And you should follow My example, just as I follow Christ's."*

The challenges of this world can hinder the progress of your fruitful life because the evil one is going to do his best to prevent you from growing closer to God. Your willingness, focus, and complete dedication are the key to your spiritual growth. You must keep on pressing towards the goal of growing in your new and “*real-life*” attitude.

Philippians 3:13-14, *"I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God through Jesus Christ is calling us up to heaven."*

Don't allow the past to stop the progression of your growing progress. This is the evil one at his best; he wants you to dwell on your past and not look ahead to the life God has in store for you. Grow in the knowledge of God by focusing all of your energy on Him. He will supply you with His divine strength, TODAY.

II Peter 1:3-8, *"As we know Jesus better, His divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life TODAY. He has called us to receive His own glory and goodness! And by that same mighty power, He has given us all of His rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape from the decadence all around you caused by the evil desires and that you will share in His divine nature. So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life. Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence. A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better. Knowing God better leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness. Godliness leads to love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone. The more you grow like this you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

He has empowered, enabled and equipped you through His Spirit and His Holy word. All of your needs are provided by God Himself! What more do you need? Are you listening to God's Spirit? Remember, He wants you to display His growing power of fruitfulness, TODAY!

Hebrews 6:11-14, *"But you don't seem to listen, so it's hard to make you understand. You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the Scriptures. You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food. And a person who is living on milk isn't very far along in the Christian life and doesn't know much about doing what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then to do what is right."*

Are you continually training yourself to the level of maturity like Jesus Christ? In order to grow from infant Christians to the level of mature Christians, you must learn discernment; you must train your mind and heart to the ways of God, which will show you the ways of Christ. What is the status of your fruitful growth, TODAY?

Remember what God's word tells us in Philippians 1:6, *"And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ comes back again."*

If you feel like your spiritual growth is not progressing, God will help you; just trust Him, obey Him, dedicate your all to Him, accept His guidance, and yearn to know Him more. Don't feel discouraged, for God has not **and** will not give up on you. He promised to finish His good work in you and He will! He has given you the power of His Spirit, enabling you to grow in your Christ-Like attitude. Always remember God's promise and provision for your life. Don't let the evil one deceive you with the shortfalls in life, for he wants to deprive you of the joy in knowing, growing, and showing all that you have in Jesus Christ. The "real" evidence on the growth of your fruitful attitude will be seen through the development of Christ's strength, wisdom, and knowledge in your life. His word and Spirit will help you to elevate in life, TODAY.

List 9 things you will do TODAY towards the continual growth of your Christ-Like attitude.

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THE VALUE OF YOUR FRUITFUL ATTITUDE

The “*real*” value of a person is what’s inside, not outside. Even though your life is deformed with the ugliness of sin, God values your fruitful life. No matter whom you are, what you look like, where you come from, or what you’ve done, the value of your fruitful life is very important to Him---TODAY!

Are you continually developing Godly thoughts and portraying a Christ-Like attitude, which displays a “*real*” and invaluable child of God? Your thoughts and attitude should be at a peak where you’re ready to make Spiritual choices for the glory of God and His Kingdom---this is the ultimate choice in life, TODAY!

Matthew 13:44-46, *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field---and to get the treasure, too! Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!”*

The Kingdom of Heaven is more valuable to us, as believers, than anything this world can offer. We must be willing to give up everything to obtain it. It is your choice to give up everything and follow the ways of God and start living a valuable life for Jesus Christ.

Are you now displaying the price tag of Jesus Christ in your fruitful life? Has the world seen the “*real*” value of your fruitfulness come to surface? Is it a loving, joyous, peaceful, patient, kind, good, gentle, faithful, and self-controlling attitude at work? What type of reward are you going to receive for the value of your fruitful life? Your heavenly rewards will be the most accurate reflection of what you’ve done on earth. If the value of your fruitful attitude has been that of Jesus Christ then your reward is invaluable. Can God look at your attitude as a “*real*” worth in life TODAY? Has the value of your fruit measured up to His standard? Remember, His standard is not the same as the world.

Matthew 6:19-20, *“Don’t store up treasures here on earth...store your treasures in Heaven.”*

Matthew 6:24, *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

This is a clear contrast of spiritual and earthly values. God is the standard of life to value forever. If you follow the ways of the world, and not the ways of God, you will not receive the spiritual nourishment needed to survive---eternally.

The world doesn’t care about your well-being; it wants you to starve to death. Let the value of your Christ-Like attitude show its “*real*” worth! If you are following God’s fruitful steps you are storing a valuable treasure in heaven that is priceless. Your attitude should display the most valued thing in your life, and that is all that you have in Jesus Christ. It should signify a

wealth of faithful service for God.

Acts 20:24, *“And my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus---the work of telling others the Good News about God’s wonderful kindness and love.”* Is the value of your fruit placed in the desires of doing God’s will, or in the worthless values of the world? How can you measure the value of your fruitful life, TODAY? God’s word is clearly your measuring stick of valued service---each element of the Fruit of the Spirit; are you exemplifying each one in your Christ-Like attitude?

Are you being good or godly? Remember, goodness without godliness has no spiritual feeding. If the value of your fruit is in the will of God your fruitful attitude will blossom into Christ-Like values beyond belief. Others will see the *“real”* impact and difference.

Matthew 5:13, *“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has no flavor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world---like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way let your good deeds shine for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father.”*

You are His salt and light of the earth. The standard of your fruitful life is based on God’s word. If you make no effort to affect the world around you what value are you to God? If you are too much like the world then there is no value in your fruit. It is your obligation as a child of God to add more value by exemplifying the ways of Jesus Christ, TODAY! When you’re in Christ, His fruitfulness will be seen through your trust, obedience and complete commitment to Him.

Galatians 2:20, *“I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* There is nothing more valuable in life than to be crucified with Christ. You have nailed your sins to the cross and He has taken them away---your old invaluable life is gone and your NEW valuable life in Christ is alive---it will be evident in your attitude. Value all of God’s ways in your life and the value of your fruit will prosper---

FOREVER! Let the *“real”* value of your fruit be seen in these areas of your life, TODAY!

- + Value your love for God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength. Mark 12:28-30
- + Value, respect, and love your neighbors. Mark 12:31
- + Value prayer; have intimate talks with the Lord. Colossians 1:9-11
- + Value true worship and fellowship. I Chronicles 16:29, Micah 4:2, Psalm 100: 1-3, Acts 2:42, 2 Corinthians 13:13
- + Value faithful service unto God and others. Romans 12:11

- + Value humility and be courteous to others. Be gentle and act in peace. Matthew 5:5
- + Value honesty and integrity. Don't deceive anyone. Ephesians 4:25
- + Value a moral life. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 6:19-20
- + Value and share generously with your time and money. Don't be selfish. I Timothy 6:17-19
- + Value forgiveness; be merciful and forgiving to others, for God valued you enough to show His mercy, love, and grace. **He forgives you.** Matthew 6:14-15 and Ephesians 4:32
- + Value your fruitful life. Galatians 5:22-23
- + Value your Godly thoughts, Christ-Like attitude and Spiritual choices---don't be a hypocrite. James 2:14-24

The value of your fruitful attitude has a price tag in the eyes of God. Does the world see the “*real*” value of your fruit? If there were a summary of a Godly value it would be His Golden Rule.

Matthew 7:12, “*Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law.*”

Display the value of your fruit with an attitude of treating others with love and respect. Let it be true and “*real*” and let it be pleasing and of value to God! I Corinthians 13:3, “*If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it, **but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.***” When you're in Christ you have all to gain and nothing to lose. What is more valuable in life than this?

List 9 things you will invest in TODAY that shows your “*real*” value in Jesus Christ. Does everyone see the “*real*” you?

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THE BLESSINGS OF YOUR FRUITFUL LIFE

Blessed is more than happiness; it is the enviable position of those who are in God's Kingdom. Being blessed by God is the ultimate experience of hope and joy in all that we have in Jesus Christ. In order to be blessed by God, you have to follow His ways and live a life of fruitfulness; as Christ did. Have you completely placed your trust in God? Are you obeying His word? Have you dedicated your entire life to the power of the Holy Spirit? Have you accepted His will for your life; not yours? Do you have the burning desire to grow closer to Him?

When you choose Jesus Christ you are now in a blessed position to spiritually give when this world wants to take. You are now in the honorable position to love everyone, when others may hate or despise you. You are now at a state of inner peace and joy while this world is trying to confuse you with its disarranging and despairing ways. You must continue to live a life of goodness, kindness, and gentleness when everyone around you seems confused and full of themselves. Your fruitful life will portray patience in a hustle and bustle world; and it will enable you to set aside your pride, greed, and selfish ways. You're now allowing God's Spirit to produce an abundance of blessings for our Father in Heaven.

Remember what Jesus tells us in Matthew chapter 5, speaking on the Beatitudes---He blesses those who are doing these things according to His Father's will. What the world expects from you is a life of sin and evil doing. What God expects from you is to live according to the Truth; and for that **He will bless you.** This is a promise of encouragement.

I Peter 3:8, "Finally, all of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and He will bless you."

Isaiah 66:2-3, "My Hands have made both Heaven and earth, and they are mine. I, the Lord, have spoken! I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at My word. But those who choose their own ways, delighting in their own sins, are cursed...."

Planting, cultivating, nurturing and establishing a Godly mind has enabled you to portray and convey a more balanced and stable life in Jesus Christ; versus the mindset of the world. Your choice to grow and to live with the characteristics and appearance of a Christ-Like attitude has brought invaluable pleasure to God; versus a life of worthless value this world has to offer. Your choice to feed upon God, through His power, will lead you to a mature and productive life for Jesus Christ. His purposeful and masterful plan has provided spiritual blessings for His glory.

Ephesians 1:3-8, "How we praise our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose

us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure.”

“So we praise God for the wonderful kindness He has poured out on us because we belong to His dearly loved Son. He is so rich in kindness that He purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are forgiven. He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.”

In Christ you are the benefactor of:

- + Knowing God
- + Chosen for salvation
- + Adopted as a child of God
- + Forgiven for all of your sins
- + Given the gift of His Spirit, power to do His will
- + And the hope of living forever with Jesus Christ

Because of this wonderful relationship with Jesus Christ you can enjoy the blessings of living an eternity with Him as your King.

1 Peter 1:3-4, *“All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by His boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for His children. It is kept in Heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.”*

God’s gracious, merciful and loving favor is upon His children and is sufficient for all who choose Him TODAY. He has equipped you through the power of His Holy word and Spirit to live a blessed life for Jesus Christ. And because of your intimate relationship with Him, you can enjoy these rich and boundless blessings for eternity.

John 1:16, *“We have all benefited from the rich blessings He brought to us---one gracious blessing after another.”*

To live in the family of God is a blessing that is unfathomable. To bring others to the family of God is a blessing of your fruitful life that brings happiness, pleasure and divine favor to God. Your choice to live, give, and share all that you have in Him has blessed the One who has given you everything. Are you now a selfless giver, not a selfish taker?

Acts 20:35, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

You are His chosen ones. He loves you and you love Him and that commitment of **ONE** has blessed you beyond all imaginary belief. The evil one tried to detour your progress, but you did not waver from God's leading. Through Him look at the blessings you have produced in your "real-life":

- + You have transformed your thought process from the ways of this world to the ways of God.
- + You have conformed from your earthly attitude to a Christ-Like attitude.
- + You have chosen Him and now your Spiritual choices are exemplifying wonders of fruitfulness.

Your trust in Him yielded a mind of joy, peace, and faithfulness. Your obedience to Him portrays an attitude of love, patience, kindness, goodness and gentleness; **and** your true dedication, acceptance and yearning all of His ways provided you the strength and knowledge to make Spiritual choices of self control. Could you have done this without His blessings, TODAY?

Deuteronomy 30:19-20, *"TODAY, I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that would you choose life so your descendants might live! Choose to love the Lord your God and to obey Him and commit yourself to Him, for He is your life!"*

Just as Moses challenged Israel to choose life, to trust and obey God, and then to experience His blessings, the same message from God's word applies to each one of us. God will not force you to choose Him. He will allow you to make the choice to either follow Him or reject Him; it's one or the other.

No matter what the world is telling you TODAY, you only have 1 of 2 choices in life; **for God or against God**. This choice is a matter of life-or-death! However, God wants each one of us to realize, He would like us all to choose Him and have life that is everlasting and receive His blessings.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6, *"If you fully obey the Lord your God by keeping all the commands I am giving you TODAY, the Lord your God will exalt you above all the nations of the world. You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God. You will be blessed in your towns and in the country. You will be blessed with many children and productive fields. You will be blessed fertile herds and flocks. You will be blessed with baskets overflowing with fruit, and with kneading bowls filled with bread. You will be blessed wherever you go, both in coming and in going."*

If you have "really" chosen Him TODAY, applying His word to your life, and allowing the power of His Spirit to lead you in making righteous choices you will be an exemplary of Christ in every aspect of your life; not a few, **BUT ALL!** This is the blessed, fruitful, & "real-life" in Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 1:13, *"So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the special blessings that will come to you at the*

return of Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 22:14, *“Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.”*

THE FRUITFUL LIFE YOU PRODUCE WILL ENABLE YOU TO EAT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE-FOREVER!

Psalm 92 is a great passage for you to read TODAY in focusing on the blessings you have in God. Let your thoughts be Godly---let your attitude be Christ-Like---and let the Holy Spirit lead you to Spiritual choices for the glory of God. We pray that this will help you to express the fruitful ways of God’s work in your life.

He’s blessed you---**Choose to bless Him, TODAY!**

“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening, accompanied by the harp and lute, and the harmony of the lyre. You thrill me Lord, with all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done. Oh Lord, what great miracles you do! And how deep are your thoughts. Only an ignorant person would not know this! Only a fool would not understand it. Although the wicked flourish like weeds, and evildoer’s blossom with success, there is only eternal destruction ahead of them. But You are exalted in the Heaven, You, Oh Lord, continue forever. Your enemies Lord will surely perish; all evildoers will be scattered. But You have made me as strong as a wild bull. How refreshed I am by Your power! With my own eyes, I have seen the downfall of my enemies; with my own ears I have heard the defeat of my wicked opponents. But I, a child of God, will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. I am transplanted into the Lord’s own house. I will flourish in the courts of God. Even in my old age I will produce FRUIT; they will remain vital and green. I will declare the Lord just! He is my Rock. There is nothing but goodness in Him!”

List 9 blessings you've experienced by choosing the "real-life" in Jesus Christ.

Did He satisfy all of your needs for TODAY?

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James 1:25 "*Keep looking steadily into God's perfect law---**the law that sets you free**---and do what it says and don't forget what you heard, **then God will bless you for doing it.**"*