

Wisdom From Above —Full of Good Fruits

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BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many sections in the Bible that describe characteristics that disciples seek to inculcate into their lives. One such section is found in James 3:17.

James 3:17—“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

Today, we will discuss the subject of being full of good fruits.

This phrase is different from the other phrases in this verse. While the other phrases are descriptions of specific positive characteristics, this phrase is a common agricultural metaphor to make its point.

Greek word in James 3:17

Notice the major Greek words dealing with the subject of good fruits found in James 3:17.

■ *Karpos* (No. 2590 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek noun in James 3:17 translated as “fruits.” It is defined as “fruit, crop, harvest” and “by extension: deed, activity, produce of a person.” It is used 54 times as “fruit” and 12 times as “fruits” in the New Testament.

■ *Karpophoreo* (No. 2592 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a verb translated to “bring forth fruit.” It is used eight times in the New Testament.

■ *Karpophoros* (No. 2593 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is an adjective translated “fruitful.” It is used one time in the New Testament.

Agricultural metaphor

Notice a few of the examples involving this agricultural metaphor representing deeds.

Matthew 3:8—“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.”

Matthew 3:10—“And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Matthew 7:16-20—“You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

Matthew 12:33—“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.”

Matthew 13:8—“But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop [2590]: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

John 15:2—“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

John 15:4-5—“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Hebrews 12:11—“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Hebrews 13:15—“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

James 3:18—“Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

James 5:7—“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.”