

“Parable of the Sower—Part 4”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 1, 2023.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I completed the four-part series about the parable of the sower (which was given in Matthew 13:3-9 and explained in Matthew 13:18-23).

Let’s look at the fourth lesson in the parable.

Yielding a crop

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

Matthew 13:23—“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Saved by grace

- Ephesians 2:8-9—Disciples are saved by grace.
- Ephesians 2:10—Disciples are created for good works—meaning our Father has specific expectations of us.
- Titus 3:4-7—Disciples are saved by grace.
- Titus 3:8—Disciples are to be constantly reminded to maintain good works—meaning our Father has specific expectations of us.

Bear fruit

There are many verses that discuss disciples bearing fruit. Notice only a few.

- Matthew 7:16-19—You know people by their fruit (whether good or bad).
- Hebrews 12:11—Correction yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

Bear fruit with patience

Luke 8:15—“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

The Greek word for patience (*hupomone*—Strong’s No. 5281) is a noun that means “perseverance, endurance and patience.”

Romans 15:4-5—"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus."

The Greek verb variation of the word (*hupomeno*—Strong's No. 5278) means "to stand firm, endure and persevere."

Hebrews 10:36—"For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

Both noun and verb

Here are two examples with both the noun and the verb.

- Hebrews 12:1-3—Let us run the race with "endurance" (No. 5281). He "endured" (No. 5278) the cross. Consider Him who "endured" (No. 5278) such hostility.
- James 5:11—We count them blessed who "endure" (No. 5278). You have heard of the "patience" (No. 5281) of Job.

True vine

John 15:1-4—"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 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."

John 15:5-8—"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. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."