

# FRUITBEARING

1-29-12

*Piper Bible Church*

We all want a fruitful life – a positive effect, make a difference, accomplish something important.  
Matt 9:37-38; Matt 6:19-22 – A fruitful life takes some directed effort.

Today – **How to live an effective, fruitful life for the Lord**

John 15:1-8

**The work of fruitbearing involves 4 actions:**

## **I. plowing**

Jeremiah 4:3

Things we dwell on, opinions we hold, attitudes we harbor – these determine the direction our life takes.

Hosea 10:12-13; John 15:4-6 – You can't fulfill your purpose outside of a walk with Him.  
Abide in Him = to remain in fellowship with Him, seek His will, & walk in His principles.

## **II. sowing**

Plant the seeds in your own heart & in the hearts of others.

### **A. Plant the seeds in your heart**

Mark 4:3-8, 14-20

The seed is God's word, & the soil is 4 kinds of hearts God's word is sown in.

#### **1. The hard heart.**

They hear, but don't listen, not interested, Satan helps them forget.

#### **2. The shallow heart.**

They respond, but never become rooted in God's word, & they're gone when things get difficult.

#### **3. The distracted heart.**

They hear & respond, but allow life's distractions to take away God's message (choked by the weeds).

#### **4. The receptive heart.**

They listen to God's word, apply it, research it, grow & bear fruit.

Are you allowing God's word to be sown in your heart?

Or, are you too hard, shallow or distracted for God's word to grow in you?

### **B. Plant the seeds in the hearts of others.**

Rom 10:13-15 – God calls it beautiful when someone shares the gospel's good news.

Eph 6:10-18 lists the armor of God – "your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

## **III. pruning**

John 15:2 – Get the junk out of your life that hinders growth & fruit.

Heb 12:1-2

## **IV. reaping**

Psalm 126:6; Gal 6:7-9; Psalm 1:1-3 – You will reap as you have sown (in God's time).