



Fruit(full) Partnership

#npfruitfull

Week 1
1 of 10

April 11, 2021

Bottom Line: It starts with God, but we must become partners in the process.

Icebreaker: Do you have a green thumb or a brown thumb? What's the most success you've ever had in growing something? What's your most notable failure?

Key Verse: *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.* 2 Peter 1:3 NIV

Jesus says that in the same way we can identify certain types of trees by their fruit, we can identify one another by the fruit of our lives. We want to live lives that produce the healthy, good fruit of one who follows Christ. Jesus died so we could be free from the penalty and power of sin and to give us true life in all areas. The life God designed starts with a part only He can provide and then becomes a partnership with us. **God provides His Spirit** through commitment to Christ; the Holy Spirit comes into our lives to empower and direct us to become like Christ. **God provides His Word** to show us how to live. If you are serious about changing your life, you need to access the wisdom of the Bible. **God provides the circumstances of life around us.** Nothing can come into the life of a believer without the heavenly Father's permission; it must be "Father-filtered." The source of the circumstances makes no difference to Him. The source is irrelevant as far as being able to grow us if we work with God. We can learn from anything if we are willing. **So how do we respond in this partnership? We respond by relying on God's Spirit.** His Spirit is intended to give us power. All Christians have God's Spirit, but not all rely on His power. Jesus says we are branches, totally dependent on the main vine; it cannot produce fruit by itself. Fruit-growing is an inside job. As we abide in Him through constant prayer about everything, we will start to see the fruit of the Spirit developing in our lives. **We respond by renewing our minds,** carefully choosing what we think about. Change always begins with new thinking. Repentance actually means "a change of mind." We are transformed by the renewing of our minds, not by willpower. If you want to change your life, you must go back to the way you think, which changes the way you feel and then the way you act. **We respond wisely to the circumstances we face.** We cannot control our circumstances, but we can control how we respond to them. We can control whether an experience makes us a bitter person or a better person. God produces the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing us to encounter situations and people with characteristics that are exactly the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. Make sure you are involved in ministry and community. God will use people nothing like you to develop you. Fruit development takes time—there is no instant maturity. Commit to be a partner, and cooperate with His plan.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

Jesus said He came to give us "life that is really life." What does that mean to you?

Peter said that in our quest for the life God intends us to have, there is a portion only God can provide. How would you describe that?

It starts with God. God's number one purpose in your life is to make you like Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus. How do you see this fruit displayed in His life? How is the Spirit helping you?

Paul told Timothy that Scripture is useful to teach us what is true, make us realize what is wrong in our lives, straighten us out, help us do what is right, and become well prepared at every point. Share some way the Scriptures have done this for you so far in 2021.

We seem to think Jesus came to make us happier, not more fulfilled. Agree/disagree? How do we view circumstances?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Everything that comes to you is Father-filtered. How does that help you let God grow you in hard circumstances?

Which of these responses challenges you most? Relying on God's Spirit, renewing your mind, or responding wisely to circumstances? What helps you?

When you change your thoughts, you also change the way you feel. When you change how you feel, you change how you act. When you change how you act, you change your legacy. But you **MUST** start with thinking differently. How have you learned to change the way you think?

How has your participation in ministry and community with people who are very different than you helped you develop the fruit of the Spirit?

Where and how do you believe God is working with you right now?

NEXT STEPS

1. Tell God that you want to be fruitful and productive, and you want to cooperate with His plan.
2. Commit yourself to reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on the Bible.
3. Pray about everything—and ask Him to help you accept your circumstances as part of God’s plan to change your life for good.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: It starts with God, but we must become partners in the process.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Ephesians 3:20

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Wednesday: Romans 5:3-5

Thursday: John 14:26

Friday: Ephesians 4:22-23

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)