

Scriptures Showing What Makes a Man Profitable or Unprofitable to God

Note: These passages are commonly used to understand attitudes and behaviors that please God (profitable) and those that are spiritually fruitless or unprofitable.

What Makes a Man Profitable to God

- Micah 6:8 – Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.
- John 15:5,8 – Abiding in Christ and bearing much fruit glorifies God.
- Galatians 5:22-23 – Manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.
- 2 Timothy 2:21 – A purified vessel fit for the Master’s use.
- Hebrews 11:6 – Faith pleases God.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 – Fear God and keep His commandments.
- Matthew 25:21 – Faithfulness in stewardship.
- James 1:27 – Pure religion: caring for others and personal holiness.
- Romans 12:1-2 – Presenting oneself as a living sacrifice.
- Colossians 1:10 – Walking worthy of the Lord and being fruitful in every good work.

What Makes a Man Unprofitable to God

- Luke 17:10 – Servants must not boast in duty performed.
- Matthew 25:30 – The unprofitable servant buried his talent.
- Titus 3:9 – Foolish disputes and contentions are unprofitable.
- 2 Timothy 2:14 – Striving about words is unprofitable.
- Hebrews 4:2 – Hearing the word without faith does not profit.
- Isaiah 44:9-10 – Idolatry is vain and unprofitable.
- Jeremiah 2:8,11 – Following things that do not profit.
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 – Works without love profit nothing.
- John 6:63 – The flesh profits nothing apart from the Spirit.
- Titus 3:14 – Failure to engage in good works leads to being unfruitful.

Key Summary

Scripture consistently associates profitability before God with faith, obedience, humility, holiness, love, fruitfulness, and faithful stewardship. Unprofitability is associated with unbelief, idolatry, fruitlessness, selfishness, empty religion, foolish disputes, and neglect of God-given responsibilities.

Additional Study: 2 Peter 1:5-8 - Qualities That Prevent Unfruitfulness

This passage directly addresses how a believer can avoid being spiritually unfruitful or ineffective in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-7 lists the following qualities in progressive order:

- Faith – Trust in God and confidence in His promises.
- Virtue – Moral excellence and godly character.
- Knowledge – Growing understanding of God and His ways.
- Self-control – The ability to govern desires and actions.
- Perseverance – Patient endurance through trials and difficulties.
- Godliness – A life that reflects reverence toward God.
- Brotherly Kindness – Genuine care and affection for fellow believers.
- Love – Selfless Christian love, the highest expression of spiritual maturity.

Scripture Reference (NKJV):

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge; to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness; to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

Promise of Profitability and Fruitfulness:

"For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:8)

Summary: Peter teaches that spiritual profitability is not merely a matter of believing, but of continually growing in Christian character. As these qualities increase, believers become effective, fruitful, and useful in their walk with Christ.