

DAY 26 — FRUIT

Make Room for God's Heart | Devotional

Galatians 5:16–25 • John 15:1–8 • Matthew 7:16–20 • Colossians 1:9–12

Fruit reveals what is growing within us. We can say the right things, hold strong convictions, and appear busy doing good, but the condition of our hearts eventually becomes visible in the way we live. Jesus teaches that a tree is recognized by its fruit (Matthew 7:16–20). The question is not simply what we claim to believe, but what our lives are actually producing.

Paul describes the conflict between the desires of the flesh and the leading of the Spirit. Hatred, jealousy, division, and selfish ambition damage the lives around us. In contrast, the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:16–25). These qualities are not decorations for a spiritual reputation; they are evidence of a life being shaped by God.

Jesus offers an essential reminder: a branch does not bear fruit by straining harder on its own. It bears fruit by remaining connected to the vine. Our growth begins in relationship with Christ. Even fruitful branches are pruned, not because the gardener has abandoned them, but so that they can bear more fruit (John 15:1–8). Pruning can be uncomfortable. It may involve surrendering habits, attitudes, or attachments that limit the life God is cultivating.

Colossians 1:9–12 joins fruitful living with knowing God's will, growing in our knowledge of Him, and receiving His strength for endurance and patience. Spiritual fruit is not merely a burst of good behavior when life is easy. It is the gradual expression of God's work in us, including when we are tested.

Today, consider your fruit without using the question as a weapon against yourself. Notice what is healthy and worth nurturing. Be honest about what needs to change. The invitation is not to manufacture perfection, but to remain with Christ and cooperate with the Spirit's transforming work.

REFLECT

- What fruit is my current way of living producing in my relationships, choices, and responses?
- Where am I trying to force growth through effort instead of remaining connected to Christ?
- What might God be pruning, and what new fruit could that make room for?
- Where have I noticed even small evidence of the Spirit's work in me?

FAST — MAKING ROOM

As you fast today, make room to listen rather than perform. Ask God to show you what is growing, what needs tending, and what you can release. Let the space created by fasting draw you closer to the Vine.

*“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” —
John 15:8 (NIV)*