

Ancient Paths

May 17th, 2026 – 100 Years of **FRUITFULNESS**

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

Mighty Oaks make Strong Forests

I am thankful for the property, the financial provision, the community ministries we get to lead – but the **External Fruit** we see is the result of the **Internal Roots** of Individuals and Families throughout the years.

Church of the Crossroads is a **Healthy Forest**.
But a Healthy Forest is simply a collection of **lots of Healthy Trees**.

And as we look at 100 years of Crossroads, we have to get this: It didn't start with Buildings in mind – It started with **Personal Fruitfulness** in mind.

Because they knew that if they were fruitful personally, the church would be fruitful collectively.

Simply Put: The Holy Spirit wants to produce Fruit in us **Individually**, and then Collectively we produce Fruit in the Kingdom of God.

Each of us is a Tree.

What Kind of Tree are You?

Matthew 7:17 NKJV - ...every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

“In the Kingdom of God – Am I a Good Tree or a Bad Tree?” And how do the Answer to that Question?

Matthew 7:20 NKJV - Therefore **by their fruits** you will know them.

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT **The Fruit of the Spirit**

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The Fruit of the Spirit becomes a **Scorecard** for us. We can MEASURE ourselves in these areas.

At Hell's poker table, they're making a bet that Christians will slowly transition from dependence on God...to dependence on talent, branding, systems, personalities, money, and human ability.

Mark Batterson book: “ALL-IN”

“Most people in most churches think they are following Jesus, but I'm not so sure.”

“They may think they are following Jesus, but the reality is this: they have invited Jesus to follow them. I’m afraid we have cheapened the Gospel by allowing people to buy in without selling out.”

“We’ve made it too convenient, too comfortable... We want everything God has to offer without giving anything up. We want to buy in without selling out.”

The danger of “Modern Christianity” is that it’s **SELF-Led, SELF-Focused, and SELF-Reliant**. And it never leads to long-term fruitfulness.

Why? Because being SELF-LED, SELF-FOCUSED leads to **COMPROMISE**.
Which creates **Weak Trees**.
Which creates a **Dying Forest**.

Question: *What if you could get what you want on your own, would you take it?*

In Exodus 33, here’s the DEAL that God gives to Moses.

Exodus 33:1 NASB

Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, because you are an obstinate people, and I might destroy you on the way.

Exodus 33:2 NASB

I will send an angel before you and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.

Exodus 33:15 NASB

Then he said to Him, **“If your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.”**

Moses realized that: **Possessions without the Presence of God – I’m just the same old ME with New Stuff.**

George McDonald (who was an influencer in the life of CS Lewis) said this:

“In whatever a man does without God, he will either fail miserably or succeed even more miserably.” – George McDonald

3 Steps to Personal Fruitfulness

1. Realize that You are Responsible for the Fruitfulness of your Life

Acts 2:1-3 KJV

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

“Anything that dims my vision for Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible Study, or cramps me in my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult, is wrong for me; and I must, as a Christian turn away from it.” - Wilbur Chapman

Proverbs 26:20 NASB - For lack of wood, the fire goes out.

What is the WOOD that keeps your fire going?

- It's the WORD of God
- It's WORSHIP
- It's Time in PRAYER
- It's surrounding yourself with the RIGHT PEOPLE

Matthew 7:20 NKJV - Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

You can know a lot about a tree by simply seeing the fruit it is producing. By looking at the Fruit, we can see what kind of Seed, what kind of Soil, and what kind of Surroundings that tree has.

If the Fruit isn't what it's supposed to be, I have to look at those 3 things:

- It's up to ME what SEED is being deposited into our lives.
- It's up to ME the condition of the SOIL in my life.
- It's up to ME what my SURROUNDINGS are.

2. Commit to Deep Surrender Daily

How DO I get Filled with the Spirit?

By opening up areas of my life that I previously held onto and controlled myself.

The FRUIT of the Spirit is the result of Being FILLED WITH the Spirit.

1 Peter 5:5-6 NKJV

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and **be clothed with humility**, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the HUMBLE.”

6 Therefore **HUMBLE** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

In the Kingdom of God, there is an overwhelming power of **HUMILITY**.

3. Pray the Prayer that Leads to Genuine Fruitfulness

David realized his greatest problem was not AROUND him... it was INSIDE him.

Psalm 51:10 KJV - Create in ME a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within ME.

When's the last time you prayed for YOUR heart? YOUR spirit?

At some point in life of a Maturing Believer, we realize:

*"The greatest miracle is not God changing what's AROUND me...
The greatest miracle is God transforming what's WITHIN me."*

When we allow God to Create in us a Clean Heart, the result is:

Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control.

Mighty Oaks make Strong Forests.

You're the Next MIGHTY OAK.

YOU can Continue Legacy.

Building Something Eternally Meaningful with the Life that has been given to you.

It starts with Salvation.

It continues through Surrender.