

Message Week 4: A Valley of Trouble Becomes a Doorway of Hope

Find the MP3 message for Week 4 at www.journeybiblestudy.com.

Study Text: 2 Peter 1:2-10 // John 15:1-12 // Luke 6:43-45// **Memory Verse**// Prayer

Read 2 Peter

Gateway of Faith > Land of Learning Obedience

Maturing Obedience/Surrender > Knowing God more intimately

Developing Intimacy with God > Self-control

Self-Control: willingness to remain in an uncomfortable, difficult, or frustrating situation

Every normal human being has a natural measure of self-control
they must learn to exercise.

Every growing believer has a spiritual measure of Spirit-led self-control available,
if they will lean into it. They must be willing to want what God wants.

THE POWER TO DO THE THING
COMES AFTER THE CHOICE TO DO THE THING.

Every maturing believer has a supernatural measure of self-control available to them
through the Holy Spirit, if they will continually choose GOD over SELF.

Learning to exercise self-control in the lesser matters is the training ground
for learning to exercise self-control in the weightier matters.

If you have been willing to apply self-control in the lesser matters, the Holy Spirit
will be freed up to help you apply self-control in the weightier matters.

This Week's Question: What TYPE of fruit does my life bear?

Read John 15:1-12

Peter says... productive and useful

Jesus says.... BIG PICTURE REQUIREMENT to living a life that glorifies God

The way we live **AUTOMATICALLY** reflects back on God.

Does your life...

Bring God glory and joy, and further His purposes here in the world?

Grieve God and quench His Spirit

as we choose to further our own glory and happiness in this world?

We will **HARVEST** the kind of relationship with God that we **CULTIVATE**.

Skim the surface – wonder... rarely moments of revelation

Willing to expose your deepest places- He reveals deep truths of His own

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1) Remain: I am pruned and purified by God's Word **IF I put it into practice.**

Remain by staying in God's Word (vs. 7)

Remain by obeying God's Word (vs. 10)

Illustrate **God standing behind** you while you focus on the world VS.

You focused on Jesus (who reflects the Father), and **I WILL reflect** to the world.

You remain then positioned under the protective authority of Jesus Christ
and in the flow of God's Love

Read Luke 6:43-46

2) Fruit: My character (inner fruit) determines the capacity and quality
of my contribution to God's Kingdom (outer fruit).

Vs. 43 KJV- corrupt tree/corrupt fruit> sah-pross- rotten, putrified, no longer fit for use

Vs. 45- evil man> po-nay-ros- full of annoyances & hardships //
pressed & harassed by labors //
causing pain & trouble // diseased // wicked

Jesus uses the picture of a thorn bush and a bramble bush to illustrate

YOUR HEART IS SHAPED BY WHAT RESIDES THERE.

It is the ____ man, out of the ____ in his heart, that brings forth ____.

You have nothing to offer except that by which you are characterized.

Gal. 5:22-26 (NIV)

Spiritual fruit is a by-product of a submitted, obedient life.

Didn't will themselves into that fruit

They died again and again in the lesser matters of their own lives

The spiritual fruit springs up from the rich, fertile soil of death-to-self.

3) Love: My innermost attitude towards others most accurately reflects the true nature of my character.

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples." -John 13:35 (NLT)

This Week's Challenge: Ask God to help me see the true condition of my heart towards Him, AND my heart towards others.