

Grain...dying...fruit?

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (JOH12:24-25)

But what does this mean? As long as a grain of wheat keeps on being just a grain in the head of a stalk of wheat, it remains just that – a lone grain of wheat. Only when it is detached from the head and buried in the ground does it produce more grain. Jesus is the seed (grain of wheat) of Abraham.(GAL3:16) Jesus (the Seed of seeds) have chosen to die, then Jesus becomes the firstborn among many brethren.(ROM8:29) God instructed the first Adam to be fruitful and multiple.(GEN1:28) and now being the second and last Adam (1CO15:45,47), Jesus follows that. However, Jesus' means of procreation is through his death upon the Cross and his bride is his church. Here, Jesus was speaking of His own death. However, Jesus also went on illustrated that we are to die in a similar manner as He did. Jesus then spoke to them of their fleshly death to self.

Christ is the propitiation for our sin, and this passage helps to explain the necessity for Christ to die on the Cross so that He may rise up to life immortal and bring many sons to glory. The Lord Jesus is the perfect picture of a single grain/corn of wheat Whose death brought forth abundant fruit. Indeed, it is also used to illustrate the fruitfulness of a single Christian life who is prepared to die to self and the old sin-nature and live for Christ, it bears much fruit, to His honour and glory.

In 1 Cor.15:36–42, Paul starts with an analogy from nature: what is sown—or planted, like a seed in a field—does not come to life unless the seed dies first. Paul will go on to show that the resurrected body is similar that the pre-death body is the seed. The seed which is planted seems to "die." It sacrifices everything and is lost, so far as it appears. In truth, the seed must be planted in order to become what it was always meant to be. Just as the seed must "lose its life" to fulfill its ultimate purpose, so too does each person need to "lose" their worldly life in order to gain eternity. That doesn't literally mean physical death or martyrdom, but rather willingness to sacrifice everything in order to follow Christ.(MAR8:35–36)

In 15:8 we see that glorification is in fruit-bearing. *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.* According to 12:24, the one grain fell into the ground and died, rose up, and brought forth many grains. This is multiplication, and this is glorification the many grains are the many branches of the vine. The branches of the vine bear fruit, and this is the glorification of the Father. The death of Jesus is linked to His glorification and power, "the Lord glorifying the Son." It was not until His flesh (the "seed") of died in the ground, that it brought forth "fruit." Notice that Jesus said that we are to "fall into" the ground. Falling "to" or "onto" the ground is our "self-surviving" methods that we use to get around the true "falling into" the ground process. Therefore the falling and germination of one's self is a process. When we are born into the Kingdom of God, we experience two cycles of dying. The first being our initial-born again experience of salvation as stated in Acts 2:38, and our maturing process of denying our fleshly ways and desires. We are going to concentrate on our second dying phase of life, which does not happen overnight, but is a process.

When we are born into the Kingdom of God, we experience the closeness and fellowship of God's. We feel his love and his presence on a daily basis. We have begun a new life and enjoy the delighted highs that we feel. We experience the great "sunshine" of God and flourish in the winds of God's spirit. And as time goes on, the fledgling wheat (soul) is tossed and blown in the wind and rain. As the wheat begins to take root and ground itself in the ground trying to survive the unknown winds of time. It tries to dig deeper and deeper for self-survival. We too, are like that wheat tossed in the wind. It is totally natural to try and survive; it is even good for us because it makes us strong. But as the wheat, in all its strength, begins to get more mature, it senses that it must cast its seed into the ground and germinate. It feels that there is a time coming when it must release all its resources and give in to the cycle of death. It is frightening to that little seed. And it begins to struggle more and more to stay alive. It looks for ways to survive and get around the process of dying to self.

As a person comes to that dying point in their life, they must have that love for God that allows Him to do whatever he needs to live spiritually. When Jesus taught us to "lose" our life, he was handing us important key to spiritual power. Jesus being our perfect example, showed us how to gain glorification(victory), power, fruit and blessings in this life by the way of dying to self. Is dying to oneself easy? It is a painful process that takes time to get through. Process can only be done through separating oneself from all activity to allow God to do this to us. We must be willing for God to put us into that cold, dark ground all alone for a time period. When we have finished this process of dying to one-self, it does not mean that we will never face anymore storms, or that we will never have to crucify our flesh again. But when we have surrendered to God, then He help us grow as He directs our paths where ever He desires. It is now a person that bears fruit and glorifies the Lord in perfect praise. When a "corn of wheat" truly dies, it will bring forth fruit. And we all want to have victory and bear fruit! So God's method of glory is to "fall into" the ground. What about you? Have you died to sin, self and the world? Declaration: *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* (GAL2:20)

Jesus said *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"* (LUKE 10:2) After His resurrection from the dead, fruitful Sower commands, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (MAT28:18-20) And on the last harvest day he will gather up all elect grain from "every tribe and language and people and nation" (REV7:9) Hallelu-Yah!