

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them.”
Matthew 7:17-20 KJV



A banana is exclusive in its distinction. You don't think "apple" when you see a banana. You don't think "orange" when you see a grape. You may not know what a tree is just by sight, but if it bears fruit you know instantly. Men are known by their "fruit." We choose our friends by their fruit or behavior. Your deeds define you. Believers should be known by their behavior as believers. We often say things like, "He is just like his Dad." Dear Believer, do others see your Father's Characteristics in you? *"The fruit (singular) of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance: against such there is no law."* How do you know a banana is a banana? It has many characteristics, but it is still just one fruit. Some are better than others, because they possess more perfectly the desired qualities. Is the "Fruit of the Spirit" being perfected in you? The more time we spend with someone the more our personality reflects their influence. The more we walk with God, the more of Him others see in us. We tend to follow or admire those who most exemplify our own values. Our values are known to others by our words and deeds. *"As he thinketh in his heart so is he."* When your words and deeds don't align, you are either branded a hypocrite or a liar or both. We often see others promise and say things that their deeds contradict. You might say fruit is a symptom of a particular tree. You could also say deeds are the symptoms of the heart. What are your symptoms?

Your words and deeds will seal your fate,
They are the script upon your slate,
So let the Truth your life dictate,
And let its Light your night abate. –CGP

We are all made in God's Image in that we are three, soul, body, and spirit, yet one, but we are not all like Him. To be like God we must believe and obey His Word, because we love Him, not because we have to do it. If you obey out of duty, your life will be miserable. But if you obey out of love, you will have Joy and Peace that passeth all understanding!

"Behold, what manner of Love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when [Christ] shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this Hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is Pure." 1 John 3:1-3 KJV