

# What Are The Hindrances of a Fruitful Life?



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The first of All Parables to understand and apply:

## The Parable of the Sower

*Mark 4:3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: 4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. 5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: 6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. 8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. 9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. 11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: 12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. 13 And he said unto them, **Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?** 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and takes away **the word that was sown in their hearts.** 16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear*

*the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

As our study is on “the world” and its influence: The carnal, physical, visual and emotional life, promoted by the devil and enjoyed by the natural unregenerated man(not born from above).

Let us listen to YHWH’s and Yahshua’s voice as true sheep and wheat that have ears. Listen to the voice of the Shepherd and not that of “the enemy” unless you are one of his.

***Pr 4:23 Keep(Guard) your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.***

**Fruit for the pleasure of our Heavenly Father is a requirement by design and not an option.** Which grain farmer, vineyard owner or orchard owner spends time planting and maintaining his plants and trees and does not expect to receive a great harvest of good quality grain or fruit?

Any of these growers would take drastic measures, like the kiwifruit growers are doing now in New Zealand, if a disease attacks their plants and threatens the production of their fruit. They are destroying and burning their plants and replanting with disease resistant plants because they are desperate to have fruit every year.

*John 15:1 I (Yahshua/Jesus) **am the true vine**, and My Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in Me that bears not fruit He takes away: and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except*

*you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, **You are the branches: He that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing.** 6 If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 **Herein is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples.***

**Did you notice, true discipleship is related directly to fruitfulness?**

**Another illustration of expecting fruit is...**

*Matthew 21 : 18 ¶ Now in the morning as He(Yahshua/Jesus) returned into the city, **He was hungry** 19 And when He saw **a fig tree** in the way, he came to it, and **found nothing thereon, but leaves only**, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on you henceforward for ever.** And presently the fig tree withered away.*

*Luke 13:6 He(Yahshua/Jesus) spoke also this parable; A certain man had **a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.** 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, **Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumberst thou the ground?(wasting good space to grow something fruitful)** 8 And he answering said unto him, **Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:** 9 **And if it bear fruit, well(That's Good): and if not, then after that you shall cut it down.***

The examples above are good examples of expectation of fruit and a limited time in which to produce it before the tree, vine or plant is destroyed and removed for a more fruitful plant.

The Parable of the Sower makes it clear what hinders, or stops, fruit production especially for the seeds that do have soil to grow in. Their potential for fruit is high in comparison to those seeds on stony ground or on a pathway. So what is stopping them producing? In the natural story it is “the thorns” choking them. In people’s lives it is clutter, distractions of the world and loss of purpose which rob the person of time to fellowship with YHWH/God and His Son and to meditate, study and apply the Word of YHWH in daily life.

*Mark 4:19... the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word,....*

**The “thorns”/cares are there because the heart was not completely cleared and prepared for the seed to be sown in anticipation, or expectation, of producing a good harvest.**

This person is someone trying to compromise and receive from both worlds, the carnal and the spiritual. That is the like the lukewarm heart that YHWH rejects as vomit.

*Revelation 3:15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot. 16 So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth.*

Paul puts the situation in another way for us in Hebrews 12:1

*1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus/Yahshua the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is sitting down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds. 4 You have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. 5 And you*

*have forgotten the exhortation which speaks unto you as unto children, My son, despise not you the chastening of YHWH/God, nor faint when you are rebuked of Him: 6 For whom YHWH loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not? 8 But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards, and not sons.*

The apostle John breaks these “thorns” down into three categories or root causes that choke the Word. These three are, the **lust of the eyes**, the **lust of the flesh** and the **pride of life**.

*1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.** 17 And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God(bears fruit) abides for ever.*

Not only will you be **unfruitful** by loving these things, but you are provoking a jealous God/YHWH by your actions of what He calls **idolatry and fornication** and you have taken your eyes off His Son whom He loves and honours and expects us to do the same, by **abiding** in Him and bearing much fruit.

### **Idolatry:**

*1 Samuel 15:23 For **rebellion** is as the sin of **witchcraft**, and stubbornness is as **iniquity and idolatry**. Because you have rejected the **Word of YHWH**, He has also rejected you from being king.*

### **Fornication**

*Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and **going after***

*strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

*Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.* (He didn't value the gift of YHWH, his spiritual heritage so he sold it cheaply).

When you read Romans Chapter 1 you will see how low and degenerate you may become as your mind becomes distorted by taking your eyes off the Father YHWH and His Son Yahshua/Jesus, but focussing on the creation in any form. The mind is then cut off from YHWH by His rejection.

*Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

**Reprobate: That which is rejected on account of its own worthlessness** #Jer 6:30 Heb 6:8 Gr. adokimos, "rejected". This word is also used with reference to persons cast away or rejected because they have **failed to make use of opportunities offered them** #1Co 9:27, 2Co 13:5-7

YHWH will allow you to receive a reprobate mind which will lead you into unnatural and obscene behaviour that is becoming more common today than any other time since the time of Noah and Sodom. This is all because people have become greater lovers of themselves and their pleasures than of YHWH and His Son Yahshua.

*2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a*

*form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

Things haven't changed from the time since the temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden. Do you remember the occasion? Do you remember the three root causes of sin listed as the "*things of the world*" (1 John 2:15,16) that were used by the serpent to entice, seduce or deceive Eve into disobedience and countering God's Words/commands ("*Gen 2:16 And YHWH God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat:17 **But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.***")

### **Events that followed:**

*Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which YHWH God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yes, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the centre of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, or you die. 4 **And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die:** 5 For God does know that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit of it, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat.*

**1. Lust of the flesh: "good for food"**

**2. Lust of the eyes: "pleasant to the eyes"**

**3. Pride of life: "a tree to be desired to make one wise"**

## **Was Yahshua Messiah/Jesus tempted by satan with the same three aspects?**

*Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward hungry. 3 And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If You be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But He answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.***

*5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And said to him, If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning You: and in their hands they shall bear You up, lest at any time You dash Your foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, **It is written again, You shall not tempt YHWH your God.***

*8 Again, the devil took Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And said to Him, All these things will I give You, if You will fall down and worship Me. 10 Then said Jesus to him, **Get you away, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship YHWH your God, and Him only shall you serve.** 11 Then the devil left Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.*

Temptation 1 : “command that these stones be made bread”- **Lust of the flesh**

Temptation 2 : “If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning You: and in their hands they shall bear You up, lest at any

time You dash Your foot against a stone.”- **Lust of the flesh, Pride of life**

Temptation 3 : “All these things will I give You, if You will fall down and worship Me.- **Lust of the eyes, Pride of life**

There is a difference between the response of Eve and that of Yahshua to these three forms of temptation by satan. Eve’s was a misquote of YHWH’s Word mixed with doubt when the opportunity was presented. Yahshua the Son of YHWH **refused listen and reason** with “a stranger” but **used YHWH’s Word as a sword** to resist satan saying, **“It is written..”**

**Here is the lesson for us when we are tempted. Get into YHWH’s Word and find the antidote or counter to the temptation. Quote it, believe it, submit to YHWH through His Son our Saviour, Redeemer and High Priest who has Himself been tempted in all points like we are. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

*1Corinthians 10:13 There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that you are able; but will **with the temptation also make a way to escape**, that you may be able to bear it.*

*Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

*James 4:7 **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

*James 1:2,3 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into a variety of temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience.*

*James 1:12 **Blessed is the man that endures temptation:** for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to*

*them that love him. 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts He any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.*

**Peter's experience on the sea of Galilee teaches us some valuable lessons for this walk of faith and obedience to the Word of YHWH.**

*Matthew 14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.*

*23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.*

*24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.*

*25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.*

*26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.*

*27 But straightway Jesus spoke unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*

*28 And Peter answered him and said, **Lord, if it be You, bid me come to you on the water.***

*29 And He said, **Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.***

**This was a great start!**

Peter by faith found a way of proving His Lord Yahshua/Jesus by throwing out a challenge that only His Lord could fulfil. Sure enough His Lord met Peter's challenge by calling Peter to Him. Peter still full of faith and focussing on His Lord only, got out of the boat and started walking on water, which no other person besides His Lord had ever done before. At that stage Peter's heart was

prepared to receive the Word like the good ground with no “thorns”. Unfortunately Peter’s focus didn’t last long and the “thorns” started taking over.....

*30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.*

**Fear (being afraid) is the symptom of the loss of faith, the loss of confidence in YHWH’s and Lord Yahshua’s ability to fulfil their promises and the loss of focus on the word of the Lord.**

The wind was the “thorn” or distraction and hindrance to the fruit or works of faith. Seeing the boisterous wind pierced his heart **with doubt in his ability by YHWH’s grace to fulfil the command to come to his Lord.**

**He failed to trust that His Lord knew He could and would make it if he only stayed faithful to the command and ignore the circumstances and surroundings. It is all about getting a vision and staying in the focus of faith(enduring to the end) and having confidence in YHWH’s presence and power to sustain throughout the experience whatever it is.**

*31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said to him, **Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?***

*32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.*

*33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, **Of a truth You are the Son of God.***

*34 And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.*

A first love for YHWH and His Son with a heart separated and committed to honouring them along with faith, no unbelief and constant obedience to the Word will surely be a good mix for a good harvest of

fruit. It is all about learning to abide in the Son of YHWH because Yahshua is the only vine the Father is tending.

Another scripture to consider regarding fruitfulness is Psalm 1.

*1 ¶ Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.*

*2 But his delight is in the law(word) of YHWH; and in his law(word) does he meditate day and night.*

*3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.*

*4 ¶ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*

*5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

*6 For YHWH knows the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

## **Paul's prayer and desire for you**

*Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

***10 That you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;***

*11 Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

*12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

**Do you really have any right to be self-indulgent, or not live for YHWH's pleasure at all times?**

*Re 4:11 You are worthy, O YHWH, to receive glory and honour and power: for You have created **all things**, and for Your pleasure they are and were created.*

**The son of YHWH, our Lord Yahshua, and Paul are our examples.**

*2Timothy 2:4 No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who has chosen him to be a soldier.*

*John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Truly, truly, I say to you, **The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do:** for whatever things He does, these also do the Son likewise.*

*John 5:30 **I can of My own self do nothing:** as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

*John 8:29 And He that sent Me(Yahshua) is with me: the Father has not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please Him.***

*Hebrews 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please Him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*

*Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I (Paul) count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**  
**14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.***

*15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything you be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*