



# ***GROWTH***

***Health &  
Flourishment  
through  
Agricultural  
Analogy***

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# The Three Essentials for Life and Flourishing & The Triune God of Life

- Soil (home)
  - Word of God ≈ Soil (Ps 1; Jer 17)
- Water (nourishment)
  - God ≈ Fountain of Living Water (Jer 2:13; 17:7-13; Ps 1); Dew (Hos 14:4-8); Rain & Snow (Isa 55:10-13; Matt 5:45; Acts 14:17; Heb 6:7)
  - Jesus/HS ≈ Living Water (John 4:7,10-14; 7:37-39; Rev 21:6; 22:17)
- Sunshine (energy/food)
  - God ≈ Sun (Ps 84:11-12; 104:13-17 cf. Rev 22:5; Jer 31:35)
  - Jesus ≈ Sun & Light of Life (Mal 4:2/Luke 1:78 & John 8:12/9:5; cf. Ps 56:13)
  - Christ-followers ≈ Light / Reflections (Matt 5:14a; 13:43a; cf. Col 1:10-12; 1Thess 5:5; 1John 1:5-10)

# The Triune God is the Source of Fruitfulness for Jesus-disciples

## John 15

- Jesus = True Vine
- Father = Vinedresser
- Disciples = Branches
- (Holy Spirit ≈ photosynthesis?)

## Galatians 5:22-23a

the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

(cf. Isaiah 45:8; Amos 6:12)

# Good Fruit, Bad Fruit, No Fruit

- Good Fruit (Matthew 12:33-37//Luke 6:45)
  - as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty. (Matthew 13:23)
- Bad Fruit (Matthew 7:15-20//Luke 6:43-44)
  - Bad fruit / flesh (Gal 5:19-21)
  - But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness (Amos 6:12; see also Isaiah 5:7)
- No Fruit (Luke 13:6-9; cf. Matthew 13)
  - Their roots dry up beneath, and their branches wither above. (Job 18:16; cf. Deuteronomy 29:18; Hebrews 12:15)

# Integration

The righteous **flourish** like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of the LORD; they **flourish** in the courts of our God.

In old age they still **produce fruit**; they are always green and full of sap

(Psalm 92:12-14 NRSV)