Trees and good fruit – Robes and perfumed garments–Suit of Armor and weapons–Grace and Truth

Race to run, a soul to win, a fight to win, a battle to win, a war to win, a cross to carry forward, a crown to gain.

Faith in the Righteousness of Christ Produces good works to God’s Praise

Faith in your Righteousness Produces works not to your Praise but destruction.

Php 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

1. Being filled with the fruits of righteousness

Righteousness is the tree, and good works the fruits,

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

1. That which God has planted in you must be planted in others.

Isa 60:21 Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

The self righteousness are deceived when they say works without faith in the Righteousness of Jesus Christ are the cause of righteousness.

Mt 15:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

Jer 17:7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

1. By righteousness
   1. we understand, the whole work of the Spirit of God, in the soul of a believer;
2. And by the fruits of righteousness,
   1. a pure heart, a right spirit, a holy temper, holy thoughts, holy words, and right actions, clean hands. And with these they are to be filled, play-ro'-o, filled up, filled full - fully preach, perfect;
3. The whole soul and life occupied with the truth, ever doing what pleases Christ to the glory of God.
   1. The fruits, or results, will be seen in the life; and those fruits are
      1. honesty, truth, kindness, love, joy, peace…, gentleness, goodness...

The desire of the Word is, that we might show abundantly by our lives that they we are truly righteous. He does not refer to liberality merely, but to everything which true piety in the heart is fitted to produce in the life.

* 1. Move forward in His Word,
     1. through faith and obedience according to His righteousness,
     2. keep the Revelation of the Word,
     3. Keep the unity of the Spirit till we are perfect to His Glory Heb 12:11; Ro 6:22

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Ro 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

II. By Jesus Christ That is, according to his doctrine, through the power of his grace, and by the agency of his Spirit.

Php 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

III. Unto the glory and praise of God.

Php 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

God being honoured when the work of his grace thus appears to men in the fruits of righteousness; and God is praised by all the faithful when his work thus appears. Every genuine follower of God has his glory in view by all that he does, says, or intends. He loves to glorify God, and he glorifies him by showing forth in his conversion the glorious working of the glorious power of the Lord.

All flow from the grace of Christ, so they must issue in the glory and praise of God.

* + 1. **The seed growing**

Joe 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

{the former rain moderately:

a teacher of righteousness}

{moderately: Heb. according to righteousness}

Jas 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Ho 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

Ps 72:6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

2Sa 23:4 And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

The king of Righteousness is coming

Zec 9:9 ¶ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

His wife hath made herself ready

Re 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22  
14:7 Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you.  
8 O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night?  
9 Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!  
10 Thus says the LORD concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.  
  
19 Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

Jer 14:13 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

Jer 4:10 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.

Jer 23:17 They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:  
  
20 We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you.  
21 Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us.  
22 Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

The Sixth Dispensation is of, **Grace** is from the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ to the work of Righteousness in the day of the Lord.

The testing under grace will be with Judgment, love, mercy, and faith.

Mic 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Mt 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Lu 11:42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Ro 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Ro 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ga 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

**The Day of Grace** began the day Jesus Christ arose from the dead and He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is well documented for the entire world to know.

Acts 1:3—*To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

4:33*—And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.*

Romans 1:3*—Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;* 4*—And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

1Cor. 15:3*—For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*4*—And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

1Peter 1:3*—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*

Joel 2:1 *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;*

12 *Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:*

15 *Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:*

**The Day of Grace has included the Day of Pentecost.**

Joel 2:23—***Be glad*** *then, ye children of Zion,* ***and rejoice*** *in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

A call for celebration

***Be glad*** *then, …* ***rejoice*** *in the LORD your God for he hath given*

Isaiah *27:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*

*Jas 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

*Ho 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

*Zec 10:1 ¶ Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.*

*Isa 61:10* ***I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,*** *my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

*11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

*Re 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

*8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. {white: or, bright}*

Joel 2:28*—And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*  29*—And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.* 30*—And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.* 31*—The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.* 32*—And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*

4:8*—Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,*

10*—Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.* 10:40*—Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;* 44*—While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.* 45*—And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Acts 2:17*—And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:* 18*—And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:* 19*—And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:*  20*—The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:*

21*—And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Acts 2:17-21 The Work of God in the **Last Days**: these are the last days, the days of God's last work on earth. Standing there before thousands, Peter declared:

Today, this day, the great prophecy of Joel begins to be fulfilled (Joel 2:28-32)

Today, this day, begins the *last days* of earth's history.

Today, this day, begins the *last days* of God's work on earth.

Today, this day, begins the last days, the final age of God's plan for human history.

Today, this day, begins the last days, the dispensation of God's grace (the church), the age of the gospel.

**T**he "last days" mean all the above. The *last days* began when Christ came to earth and they will end when Christ returns to earth.

1.  The last days include the great outpouring of God's Spirit.

a.  The word "pour" (*ekcheō*) means to pour out, to pour forth, to shed forth. It means that God gives His Spirit...

•  to *dwell in* the believer John 14:17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; II Cor. 6:16

•  to *abide with* the believer forever (John 14:16).

•  to fill, to overflow, to abundantly *fill* the believer (Ephes. 5:18).

•  to give special *manifestations* of Christ to the believer (John 14:21).

b.  God pours out His Spirit upon *all flesh*...

•  upon son and daughters.

•  upon young men and old men.

•  upon His slaves, servants, and handmaidens.

The point is this: God's Spirit shows no discrimination. The Spirit of God is available to all: male and female, young and old, slave and free, rich and poor.

c.  God pours out His Spirit with very special gifts...

•  the gift of prophecy: proclaiming and predicting the truth, this gift is given to both men and women. This was part of the Scriptural promise.

•  the gift of seeing visions, especially among young men. The Greek word "visions" (*horaseis*) means appearance (Rev. 4:3) or an ecstatic revelation (Rev. 9:17). In Scripture the Greek word is used for both what a man can envision (see, imagine, think, cause to appear) within his own mind and what is given him by God through a special revelation (Rev. 9:17).

•  the gift of dreaming dreams, especially among older men. The idea is that a dream is given by God.

History has shown and Scripture warns that spiritual gifts are often misused and abused, tragically and destructively so.

1)  We must guard against accepting every dream and vision as being of God. God's Word is the revelation of God. What God wants to reveal to us is therein. We must stand upon God's Word and measure every vision and dream by God’s Word.

2)  A study of the visions and dreams in the Book of Acts shows that everyone of them had to do with witnessing, with reaching people for Christ. Not a single dream or vision had to do with *personal edification* or with *boosting self to be spiritually superior*.

d.  God pours out His Spirit only upon His servants and upon His handmaidens. This is the emphasis of this verse, the reason for repeating what has just been said. Note that the verse is a summary statement: no one receives God's Spirit, no one, not until they become His servant or His handmaiden.

e.  God gifts His servants and His handmaidens with one very special gift—the gift of prophecy. What is so important. The gift of prophecy, of proclaiming that God's very own Son has come into the world to save sinners, is the primary gift of God's Spirit. Every one of God's servants and handmaidens are gifted to prophesy.

**T**he devastating blow to the ego

1)  So many of us leave proclamation, that is, witnessing, up to others, using the flimsy excuse that we are not capable nor gifted to witness.

2)  Too many enjoy the prestige of a *gift* and a *ministry*, minimizing the lay ministry and the layman's gift to proclaim Christ. And although there are *measures* or degrees of gifts, the great need of the hour is for every believer to proclaim the living Lord.