

# LOGF NOTES 03.24.19

40 Days In The Word: Understanding the Meaning of a Text

Tim Hobson, Lead Pastor

## Memory Verse:

Matthew 7:24 Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock.

John 15:1-17 The Bible has multiple applications, but only 1 correct interpretation.

## Four principles for interpreting scripture:

### 1. You consider the historical context.

Q: Who is this being spoken to and why?

Until you know the Who, What, When, Why and Where...you don't know what this verse means.

John 13:1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

John 13:15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

### Jesus gives his disciples some promises to comfort and encourage them:

John 14:1-11: I am going to prepare a place for you.

John 14:12-14: Ask me for anything in my name and I will do it.

John 14:15-25: I am sending the Holy Spirit to be with you and in you.

John 14:27-30: I will give you peace.

### 2. You must define the key words.

Q: What are the key words? In this case, the word we need to understand is FRUIT.

### 3. I must interpret unclear verses with clear ones.

In this passage we see 3 clear characteristics of fruit. What are they?

- Bearing fruit is produced by remaining in Christ.

John 15:4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

- Bearing fruit brings glory to God.

John 15:8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit

- Bearing fruit will give me complete joy.

John 15:11 ... so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

**Summary:** Bearing fruit is produced by remaining in Christ, it brings glory to God and it's going to give me great, complete joy.

#### 4. Look for the most obvious meaning.

The Bible is not a book of secrets. God has given the Bible to reveal Himself, not conceal Himself.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

**Remaining in Christ produces answered prayers.**

John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

**Answered prayer brings glory to God.**

John 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

**Answered prayer gives me complete joy!**

James 4:2 You do not have because you do not ask God.

#### Summary:

Bearing fruit is produced by remaining in Christ. Remaining in Christ produces answered prayers.

Bearing fruit brings glory to God. Answered prayer brings glory to God.

Bearing fruit gives me complete joy. Answered prayer gives me complete joy.

**Main Point:** I bear fruit by asking in prayer.

#### PRAYER

Prayer is the root of all fruit.

Prayer is the password to everything God wants to do in your life.

Prayer is the currency of Heavenly exchange to the earth.

**Challenge:** Write down one sentence of what I am going to pray about this week so that I might bear fruit.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

#### Life Group Discussion

1. Can you give a recent example of how you did this week's verse:  
Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wiseman who built his house on a rock. (Matthew 7:24)
2. How important is it that we properly understand the Who, What, Why, When and Where of a passage of scripture?
3. Share an answered prayer that you have experienced.
4. Talk about the difference between seeing prayer as a spare tire vs. a steering wheel.
5. What are you specifically going to pray about this week to "bear *the* fruit" in?