

A FRESH START Part 4: Bearing Fruit, A Must

By Pastor Shola Awobajo

Sunday, February 22nd 2015

Text: Matt. 21:17-21; Luke 13:1-9. "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 cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto Him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down". Luke 13:7-9

Bearing fruit is a must for every believer. God expects you and I to be fruitful in all areas of life in and out of season. 2 Timothy 4:2 and Matthew 21:17-21. Fruitfulness is one of the 5-fold ministry God gave man in Genesis 1:28 (Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it and have dominion). For a believer to lack fruitfulness in any area of life, something must have gone wrong. When Jesus got to the fig tree, He expected the tree to have borne fruit. This means continuous fruitfulness is the order of heaven for our lives.

The origin of unfruitfulness/barrenness was in the Garden of Eden when Satan made man to disobey God (Genesis 3). The devil always seeks to attack every form of fruitfulness in anyone's life. This is why he attacks marriages because he fears the seed (children) that will come out of it. Unfruitfulness is a plant that God has not planted in our lives, that's why scripture enjoins us to pray that "every plant, which my Heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." Matt. 15:13

A Fresh Start – Case Study of Jabez (1 Chron. 4:9-10)

1. Firstly, Jabez realized the source of his problem was foundational. His name meant sorrow. This means sorrow follows him wherever he goes.
2. Secondly, Jabez having realized the source of his problem, called on The God of Israel to help him. He knew the issue he was facing was beyond him. Recognize that every solution you seek in life is on the Altar of God. Obadiah 1:17.
3. Thirdly, Jabez prayed that God would bless him. He asked God to enlarge his coast.
4. Fourthly, God granted him that which he requested.

Four Things That Will Enhance Your Fruitfulness

1. You need to be born-again. Acts 3:19
2. You need to be intimate with God. Job 22:21-24
3. You need to have a right walk with God. You need to be consistent in serving Him; and you need to fear Him. Mal. 3:4
4. You need to be a tither. Tithe mounts a defense around your life. Tithing is a trade secret used by God to prosper and bless His Children. Malachi 3:10.

In conclusion, Jabez dug into his life and found where he had missed it; he called on The God of Israel and in no time his life experienced a dramatic turnaround. I close with Isaiah 55:1 – "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price".