



I. INTRO

A. Turning a page: The unofficial end of summer.

B. 2026 - Planted, growing, fruitful

John 15:8 (NKJV) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- God wants you to bear much fruit
- Fruit is proof
- Fruit makes an invisible process visible
- Fruit doesn't cause God to work in my life it's proof of His work in my life
- Fruit doesn't come from trying harder but by remain and abiding in Him
- Fruit reveals influence (or the seed)
- Fruit points back to its source or the seed

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

C. What else is in the fruit?

- There is a seed inside the fruit

D. Fruit is both proof of the past and provision for the future

- The fruit of yesterday contains the seed for tomorrow

II. THE EVERLASTING GOD

A. This is how God's Kingdom works

Mark 4:26 (NLT) Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground.

John 12:24 (NLT) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives

1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV) But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Greek is ἀπαρχή — **aparchē**, meaning the **first portion of a harvest**, especially the portion offered or dedicated to God.

- The firstfruits look backward and say, "God has done something." But they also look forward and say, "And He's not finished."



B. The faith of Abraham

Genesis 21:33 (NKJV) Then *Abraham* planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God. Abraham planted a tree, so? Odd detail

- **Isaac wasn't merely the fulfillment of what God had promised Abraham. Isaac carried the future of the promise.**

C. Faith plants for a future it can't yet see

- God's plan for Abraham was bigger than Abraham's lifetime

D. El Olam – The everlasting God

- El – God, Olam – carries the idea of a long duration, antiquity —past and future what stretches beyond the horizon of what we can see

III. THERE'S MORE THAN FRUIT

A. Fruit creates a question

- In January we asked – What's important to God? Fruit
- Now I want to ask...What is fruit for?

B. What if there's more

- What if some of what you're celebrating today isn't the whole harvest, and instead, it's the first fruits?

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

C. Faith sees differently

- Faith prepares for what God has promised, before sight can prove anything is happening

D. To Him be all the glory

- John 15, God works in us, we bear much fruit, and the Father is Glorified
- Ephesians 3, God's power works in us, He does exceeding abundantly more, He gets Glory through the church **GLORY IN THE CHURCH.**