

Understanding Agricultural illustrations



of Hebrews 4:7-11 and John 15:1-11

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Hebrews 4:7-11

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us **go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
3 And **this you will do**, if God permits.

4 **For** **this is the promise** which we heard: **who** **unbelievably** **believed**, and **have obtained** the heavenly gift, and **have become** partakers of the Holy Spirit.
5 and **have tasted** the good word of God and the powers of the age to come.
6 **And** **will** **obtain** **inheritance** them again in repentance, since they exactly apply for themselves the fear of God, and put Him to an open shame.

7 **For** the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and **bears herbs** useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;
8 but if it bears **thorns** and **thistles**, it is **rejected** and near to being cursed, **whose end is to be burned**.



19 **Abraham** (**אַבְרָהָם**), or (**אַבְרָם**) + (for 18) **TOGETHER** + (for 18) **RE-111** but, not fitting, not in accord with right (most versions) **deprived**, **reprobate** (**רָשָׁע**), **debased** (**רָשָׁע**), **unbelieving** (**רָשָׁע**), **unacceptable** (**רָשָׁע**) (Ps 1:16); **2 LN 18:12** **and** **Mea**, **of** **his** **own**, **formally**, **taking** **the** **test**, **until**, **improved**

1 **Corinthians** 9:24-27 (**ΚΟΡΙΝ**)
24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives **the prize**? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
25 And everyone who competes for **the prize** is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for **the** **imperishable crown**.
26 Therefore I run thus, not with uncertainty. Thus I fight not as one who beats the air.
27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become **disqualified**.

Entering the race is analogous to salvation. You have to put your faith alone in Christ alone in order to get saved.

Once you are saved, then we are presented with the opportunity to join the Olympic team as it were to join with fellow Christians who have set their sites on, and **who have determined to compete according to the rules** in order to obtain, this prize **eternal** inheritance.

This isn't about winning the appreciation of God but it takes discipline, it takes effort to prepare our hearts for a lifetime of transforming our thinking to divine truth.

It takes perseverance and endurance to be in the Bible Studies, to be attentive and to listen, and to make decisions that are consistent with the doctrine that we learn and not just take the easy path allowing the mind to be captivated by the things of this world.



7 **For** **the earth** which drinks in **the rain** that often comes upon it, and **bears herbs** useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;
8 but if it bears **thorns** and **thistles**, it is **rejected** and near to being cursed, **whose end is to be burned**.

This analogy is comparing the believer to earth, to soil

the soil receives nourishment from God
1. producing **fruit** herbs that's profitable or
2. produce **thorns** and **thistles**.

If it produces thorns and thistles, then they are going to be burned! **they are going to be judged as disobedient to him**.

But this imagery is not unique to this passage in Hebrews.

The same four things are applied to other **fruit** producing illustrations related to the spiritual life.



This is an agricultural analogy that everyone would be familiar with.

This analogy was to simply illustrate **divine discipline for future growth**.

This has nothing to do with loss of salvation and **eternal damnation in the lake of fire!**



This analogy is comparing the believer to the **branch on vine**

John 15:1-11 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

1 **'I am the true vine**, and My Father is the vinedresser.
2 Every **branch** in Me that does not bear **fruit** He takes away; and every **branch** that bears **fruit** He prunes, that it may bear more **fruit**.
3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Already justified

4 **Abide** in Me, and I in you. As **the branch** cannot bear **fruit** unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 **'I am** the vine, you are the **branches**. He who **abides** in Me, and I in him, bears much **fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.

to continue, or maintain diligence

6 **If anyone does not abide** in Me, he is cast out as a **branch** and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the **fire**, and they are **burned**.

Once again, divine discipline for future growth

7 **If you abide** in Me, and My words **abide** in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

8 **By** this My Father is glorified, that you bear much **fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

9 **'As** the Father loved Me, I also have loved you **abide** in My love.
10 **If** you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and **abide** in His love.
11 **'These things** I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

The only thing that a branch on a grape vine is good for, is producing **fruit**.

The only thing we are good for is producing **divine fruit**, that's nourished by truth alone

If we are not producing fruit, "the fire will test each one's work what sort it is"

Only a mature plant produces **fruit**

The quality of the fruit is dependent on the nourishment of the plant!

If all you're nourished with is human religion; the only fruit that can be produced is death ☠ it doesn't matter how good you feel about the rotting fruit in your hands dripping with maggots ☠

Three types of branches:

1. Non-fruit bearing
2. Fruit bearing
3. Non-abiding/burned

The **unfruitful** Christians are the ones that don't abide in Christ. **Unfruitful Christians** will experience divine discipline in time and lose rewards in eternity.

John is teaching believers how to grow and mature as a believer, so that we have a productive fruitful spiritual life.

The key is to abide in Christ.

The seven **I am** statements in John reveal the character and work Christ:

John 6:31-33 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

32 And Jesus said to them, **'I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 8:12 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

13 And Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **'I am the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'

John 8:56 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

58 Jesus said to them, **'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'**

John 10:7 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

7 Then Jesus said to them again, **'Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.'**

John 10:9 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

9 **'I am the door**. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:11 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

11 **'I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

John 11:25 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

25 Jesus said to her, **'I am the resurrection and the life**. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

John 14:6 (**ΙΩΑΝ**)

6 Jesus said to him, **'I am the way, the truth, and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

9 And he believed, and was confident of better things concerning you, **yes, things that accompany salvation**, though we speak in this manner.

10 **For** God is not unjust to forget **your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name**, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do continue.

11 And we desire that each one of you **show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end**

12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through **faith** and **patience** **inherit the promises**.

to keep up, or maintain diligence under pressure

13 **For** when God made a **promise** to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

14 saying, "Hardly blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the **promise**.

16 **For** men indeed swear by the greater, and as oath the confirmation is for them as end of all dispute.

17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the **heirs of the promise** the immutability of His counsel,

confirmed it by an oath.

18 And by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to **His word of the hope set before us**.

19 **This hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.

20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Through Divine Counsel diligence is strongly urged and rewarded

The Holy Spirit uses the men there to describe the certainty of our inheritance as encourage our faithfulness under pressure

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