

Well, the first Psalm says the brings forth its fruit in its season and its leaves shall not wither. He has got fruit and he has got leaves. He doesn't just have beautiful leaves, looks pretty, but nothing grows, nothing for food, nothing useful. He's got leaves and he's got fruit, he's got them both. Ezekiel said that there grew trees for food, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit be consumed. He said the fruit will be for food and the leaf for medicine. And John said that they bare twelve manner of fruits and yielded fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations, a much more beautiful statement than Ezekiel that the leaves are for medicine. But certainly they are similar.

Well, the tree bears fruit, and if we are really beside the river of the Godhead, we are going to bear fruit. It is true, what he wants is faithfulness, rather than success, yes. God may put you in a difficult spot where you will testify for years and be like Lot in Sodom have nothing to share for your testimony, but that is rare. I would say it is extremely rare and when you don't bear any fruit, you'd better test yourself pretty carefully to be sure you're really in the will of God, because the normal situation is for the tree to bear fruit, and the tree that is beside the river is normally going to bear fruit. It is the rare exception when it does not. God judges us by faithfulness rather than by effectiveness or success, yes, but if we are faithful it will be rare indeed that we will not be effective. The effectiveness may not show immediately, it may take a time, but it will come. We read in John 15 that every branch that bears not fruit he takes away. Oh, isn't this wonderful, look, I'm bearing fruit, my, we just rejoice, he won't take me away, what about every branch that bears fruit he purges. I'm bearing fruit, isn't this wonderful, he's going to praise me. Well, the praise will come in eternity if we (13<sup>h</sup>) but now he's interested that we bear more fruit. Here's one that gets along very nicely, everything goes pleasantly, nothing to worry about. Well, he's not yet taken away, but he's bearing nothing, nobody's (13<sup>h</sup>)

But here's one that's being tested through trials and difficulties, he is being purged that he may bear more fruit. God gives the fruit and God expects us to bear fruit. If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, he that abideth in me and I in me, the same bringeth much fruit, for without me ye can do nothing. We want to study methods, we want