

Sunday 24th Feb. 2008.

MAJOR HINDRANCE TO BEARING FRUITS THAT ABIDE

**Text: John 15:1-8
2 Kings 2: 18- 22.**

Introduction:

God desires that we should bear fruits that abide and throughout this month the Lord has ministered to us and as we cap it up this Sunday, the Lord wants to take away any hindrance that may prevent us from bearing fruits.

It is important for us to note that the fruits we are supposed to bear would fall into different categories. For instance, such fruits might include:

1. **Physical fruits:** This can be in the form of good health, prosperity, bearing children and all other things that the Lord can give to us especially as natural beings and also as a result of answer to our prayers (James 1: 17; Ps. 19).
2. **Special Fruits for abiding in the Vine:** Vs. 7 and 8 of John 15 is very clear that when we abide in Him, we can ask for specific things and our prayers can be answered and we can bear much fruit. Mat. 7: 16-20 also underscores the fact that when we abide in Christ, we can bear the fruit of answered prayers as stated in Mt. 7: 7-11.
3. **Spiritual fruits:** These are the fruits that accompany our maturity in Christ and they are well stated in Gal 5: 22-25.

However, there are times when, although, we have done all that is needed for us to bear the above fruits, namely:

- (i) **We recognize the father as the true vine (John 15:1)**
- (ii) **We are located in the vine (John 15: 2)**
- (iii) **We are purified through the Word of God (John 15:3; John 17:17)**
- (iv) **We have put all our trust and confidence in the Lord and dependent on him (John 15: 5)**

After all is said and done, there are still significant hindrances to bearing fruits because there is bitterness and barrenness in the land. The Lord in such instances will send his anointing and word to intervenes and do the work of purging and deliverance.

Classical Case:

Healing the Spring of the Waters:

Please refer to my earlier message on: *“Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”*

1. Elisha abided and stayed with his master serving him consistently and with pure devotion. -1 Kings 19:19-21.
2. He also persevered on the journey to destiny following through from Gilgal to Jordan. – 2 Kings 2: 1-12.
3. He presumably fed himself with the word of the Lord under the feet of Elijah.
4. He purged himself and forgot about the riches of this world and actually slaughtered his means of livelihoods and burnt the bridge behind him.
5. At the appropriate time, he prayed that very difficult prayer for the double portion of the anointing of the man of God, Elijah. - 2 Kings 2: 9.
6. He got the double portion of the anointing of the man of God. – 2 Kings 2: 12-14.
7. When he would have died at the other side of the River Jordan, he called upon the Lord God of Elijah and the Lord cause the River to part ways for him.- 2 Kings 2: 14.
8. He moved back to Jericho where the Sons of the Prophet were there to serve his and to honour him. – 2 Kings 2:15

But there was a big problem in the land of Jericho. The land of Jericho was the place he was to dwell at that time. As said before, your location determines your allocation. The water of the land was naught (it was bitter) and ground was barren. That needed being dealt with for him to bear fruits.

Solution:

Elisha had to take a new cruse and put salt in it and he went to the spring of the waters and pronounced healing to the spring of the waters. He went to the root of the problem and dealt with it decisively. The Bible records in 2 Kings 2: 22 that the waters and the barrenness were healed unto this day by the word of Elisha.

The Lord will heal spring of the bitterness and barrenness in your work, family, life and all other areas today by reason of the anointing.

Note the word of the Lord in Isaiah 10:27 – “And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing” (KJV).