

AMANA TRUST BIBLE STUDIES

Lessons from the Gospel of John (24): Bearing Fruit by the Overflow of the Inner Life

Bible reading

The following are a few key verses from the Gospel of John showing the bearing of fruit by the overflow of life.

John 4:14, 24

14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

John 7:37-38

37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Introduction

In this first of two concluding lessons, we see that the focus of the whole Bible is found in John 15. This chapter reveals a vine tree, which is an organism, an organic body. This vine is not just a parable about our relationship with God but a marvellous reality, showing that God is life, and that He needs an organic body in which to grow and to have Himself expressed. The Gospel of John shows how we can enter, experience, and become part of the organism of the Triune God, even to the extent of having the Triune God as life lived out of us, overflowing from us, and producing fruit.

Bible study reading

Please prayerfully read through the following portions of ministry related to this lesson.

You may be wondering how you can experience this organism. This living organism is like a building with an entrance. In this Gospel we have both the gate through which we can enter the organism and the way to experience this organism. The gate is in 3:3 and 5. The Lord Jesus said to a sinner named Nicodemus, "Unless a man is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God," and, "Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." We enter this kingdom, this organism, by being born in our spirit of the divine Spirit. Thus, the new birth is the entrance into the organism of the Triune God.

The way [to experience the organism] begins in chapter four...If we put verses 14 and 24 together, we shall see that to drink of the living water is to worship God. Moreover, worshipping God by our spirit and in our spirit is the real drinking of the living water, which is God Himself. God

Himself is the Spirit, and this Spirit is the living water. We drink this living water by worshipping God.

Another aspect of the way is unveiled in chapter six. In verse 48 the Lord said, "I am the bread of life," and in verse 57 He said, "He who eats Me shall also live because of Me." The way is not only to drink God as the living water, but also to eat Christ, the embodiment of God, as the living bread.

If we truly contact the Lord and eat and drink of Him, we shall have the overflow spoken of in 7:37 and 38. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." What an overflow! Whoever believes in Him will have an overflow of rivers of living water. The water the believers take in of Christ will become overflowing rivers.

By contacting God and eating and drinking of Him, we have such an overflow. This overflow is nothing less than the Triune God, who is the constituent of the organism and who is living Himself out of us. Therefore, the overflow of life is the Triune God living Himself out of us.

Now we can understand what it means to bear fruit by the overflow of life. We need to see this vision. If we do, we shall say, "I am part of the organism of the Triune God. Daily I contact my God, drink of Him, eat of Him, and live by Him. Now, spontaneously, this very God is flowing out of me." This overflow of life is our fruit-bearing. Our fruit-bearing is God being lived out of us...If we have such a testimony with our relatives and friends, they will be impressed with the overflow of life, and this flow will certainly get into some of them. They will be infused with the flow and become a fruit born by this organism. This is fruit-bearing by the overflow of the inner life. (*Life-study of John*, ch. 51, section 3)

Going deeper

Please read or listen to these materials for an in-depth study of this lesson.

Further reading:

[Life-study of John, msg. 51](#)

Questions for personal or corporate study:

References in brackets indicate readings or broadcasts that may be helpful in answering the questions.

- Describe the entrance into and two ways to experience the organism of the Triune God. (*Life-study of John*, msg. 51)
- What does this entrance and experience result in as shown in John 7:37-38?

Next week

A Brief Overview of the Gospel of John

God is life, and life needs an organic body in which to grow and express itself, the organism of Christ and the church. Our new birth was the entrance into this organism, and we experience this organism by contacting the Lord and eating and drinking Him. In this way we have an overflow—the Triune God Himself living out of us. This overflow of life is our fruit-bearing. Next week we will come to a conclusion to this study of the Gospel of John and present a brief overview of this wonderful book of the Bible. Even though it will be the last lesson in this Bible study series, we have additional Bible study materials for you to continue to study and enjoy the Word of God through weekly resources.

Works Cited

Lee, Witness. *Life-study of John*. Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 1985. www.ministrybooks.org

*All verses and excerpts © 2020 Living Stream Ministry.
Used by permission. Reproduction is prohibited.*

Copyright © 2020 Amana Trust
Registered in England and Wales
Charity number 1093401, Company number 4366897
Bower House, Orange Tree Hill, Romford, Essex, RM4 1PB