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FRUIT VS. GIFTS

So often we as Christians look at a ministry's success by how gifted the person is. They may have the ability to preach messages that far surpass others. They may have thousands of people in their church and look successful. They may have a prophetic or healing ministry that many that follow them clamor after. Yet, these gifts are not what God looks for.

God is looking for fruit in the lives of all of us. You may have a big ministry, but if you are not kind and loving you are a failure. You may have outstanding gifts that flow when you minister but have no peace in your marriage or relationships with others, so you are a failure.

Love is the number one gift that God is looking for, because God is love. Love is very patient and kind. Then there is the fruit of patience. This is missing in so many lives. Many are very gifted in the things of God but harsh on those around them and their families and their anger often shows.

Never base success in the natural or the spiritual world on the gifts in a person's life. Look for fruit that lasts. That is what God looks for. In I Corinthians 13 it talks about love. You can have gifts with no fruit of love, and you are like a noisy gong. All noise and no fruit.

We must examine our hearts and our motives. We should not desire gifts in our lives before we desire fruit. Love, Joy, Peace, longsuffering (Patience), Gentleness, goodness, Faith, Meekness, and temperance (self-control). These are the things God is looking for in our lives. Seek after them.