

# Let us Return to the Lord : Fruitful Life

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## 1. Praise “Give Thanks”

## 2. Prayer (by the leader or a member)

## 3. Scripture Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

## 4. Sharing

What are the meaningful fruits we have borne this past year? Let’s divide it into two parts, work (life) and faith, and share.

## 5. Let the light shine through the fruit

As the children of light, how are we shining light to the world in our daily lives? The Christian’s dream is to be like Christ. That dream comes to life through a fruitful life in obedience to the Words of Jesus every day.

On a spiritual level, we had no light. All we had was darkness. But the Lord, who is the light, has given us light, and we became the children of the light. We have been saved by Jesus, the light, and now we are the light. We, who were once the children of darkness, are now the children of the light. Thus, we are called to live as the light.

A born-again believer must bear fruit. Every day we must think about what kind of fruit God wants us to bear. Through the life that bears the fruit of light, the bright light of Christ shines in our homes and workplaces. People will see our abundant fruit and experience the reality of God in heaven. (Reference: Pastor Jung In Choi of Baton Rouge Korean Central Church)

## 6. Background

Paul calls on the saints to follow God’s example (Ephesians 5:1). Paul told the saints to put off the old selves, life being a “son of disobedience”, and become a child of light and bear fruit in their lives. However, the Ephesian church members were baptized and became children of God, but their lives were fruitless. They were immoral, greedy, and enjoyed worldly pleasure, just like those idol worshipers. Paul urges the saints to forsake the works of darkness and follow God’s example and live a life worthy of the calling they have received. (Ephesians 4:1).

The fruit of the light is goodness, righteousness, and truth (Ephesians 5:9), which is the characteristic of God. So, in order to bear this fruit, we must learn from God. We must abide in him by obeying his Word. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

After becoming a Christian, we must turn our bodies and minds to the Lord. Paul wrote this letter to tell the Ephesian church to deny all the values of the world on which they relied, loved, and pursued, and to live a missional life that bears the fruit of light pleasing to God to lead many to Christ.

## 7. Into the Scripture

- 1) How does Paul describe our condition before we believed in Jesus? Also, how do you say that your identity has changed since you came to faith? (Verse 8)
- 2) What kind of ‘the fruit of the light’ do the saints need to bear? (Verse 9) What does the saints have to do for the Lord by bearing the fruit of light? (Verse 10)
- 3) Paul speaks of “deeds of darkness” in verse 11. What is “deeds of darkness”? Also, how should the children of light respond to ‘darkness’? (Verse 11)
- 4) In verse 14, Paul makes a distinction between “sleeper” and “dead”. What is the difference between the two?

## 8. Into Life

- 1) What difficulties or burdens do I feel when we try to live a life that bears the fruit of light?
- 2) The way to wake up and to bear fruit is to “return to the Lord and stand before the light of Christ.” How do you receive the light of Christ every day? Also, which of the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) would you like to bear in the rest of the year?

### Pray together

1. Let’s give a prayer of thanks to God for keeping us during the pandemic.
2. Let’s pray for us to bear fruit abundantly as the children of light.