

John 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Analysis

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit (ἐν τούτῳ ἔδοξάσθη ὁ πατήρ μου)—The Father's glory is manifested through the fruitfulness of Christ's disciples. The aorist passive edoxasthē points to completed glorification already achieved through Jesus's obedience, yet continuing through disciples who abide in the Vine. **Much fruit** (καρπὸν πολύν) intensifies the earlier mention of 'fruit' (v.2) and 'more fruit' (v.5)—progressive sanctification is the evidence and aim of genuine discipleship.

So shall ye be my disciples (καὶ γένησθε ἐμοὶ μαθηταί)—The future subjunctive genēsthe doesn't mean 'become disciples for the first time' but 'prove yourselves to be' or 'show yourselves as' disciples. Fruitfulness isn't what makes one a disciple (that's grace through faith), but it's the authenticating mark. This echoes Jesus's teaching that true discipleship is verified by fruit (Matthew 7:16-20), by love (John 13:35), and by obedience (John 8:31).

Historical Context

Jesus spoke these words during the Last Supper discourse (John 13-17), after Judas departed but before Gethsemane. The vine imagery would resonate deeply with the disciples—Israel was frequently called God's vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:8-16), yet it failed to bear fruit. Jesus is now the true Vine, establishing a new covenant community whose fruitfulness glorifies the Father.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What specific 'fruit' in your life—love, obedience, righteousness, evangelism—gives evidence of abiding in Christ?
2. How does understanding that God is glorified by your fruitfulness change your motivation for spiritual growth?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	τούτῳ	ἐδοξάσθη	ό	πατήρ	μου	ἵνα	καρπὸν
Herein	G5129	glorified	G3588	Father	my	that	fruit
G1722		G1392		G3962	G3450	G2443	G2590
πολὺν	φέρητε	καὶ	γενήσεσθε	ἐμοὶ	μαθηταί		
much	ye bear	so	shall ye be	G1698	disciples		
G4183	G5342	G2532	G1096		G3101		

Additional Cross-References

John 8:31 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Matthew 5:16 (Parallel theme): Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Philippians 1:11 (Glory): Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

John 15:5 (Parallel theme): I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 13:35 (Parallel theme): By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 Peter 4:11 (Glory): If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 60:21 (Glory): Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (Glory): Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Isaiah 61:3 (Glory): To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.