

# Matthew 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

## Analysis

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Good trees cannot bring forth bad fruit; corrupt trees cannot bring forth good fruit. This absolute statement emphasizes the impossibility of faking spiritual fruit long-term. Eventually, true character shows. Hypocrites may deceive temporarily, but fruit-testing reveals truth over time.

## Historical Context

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Pharisees presented as good trees but bore corrupt fruit—hypocrisy, pride, hardness toward people, externalism. Jesus exposed them repeatedly. Paul warns of those having 'a form of godliness but denying the power thereof' (2 Timothy 3:5).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How long does it typically take for someone's true character to become evident?
2. What fruit in your life is inconsistent with a profession of faith in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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οὐ	δύναται	δένδρον	ἀγαθὸν	καρπὸν	πονηροὺς
<b>cannot</b>	G1410	<b>tree</b>	<b>A good</b>	<b>fruit</b>	<b>evil</b>
G3756		G1186	G18	G2590	G4190
ποιεῖν	οὐδὲ	δένδρον	σαπρὸν	καρπὸν	καλοὺς
<b>bring forth</b>	<b>neither</b>	<b>tree</b>	<b>can a corrupt</b>	<b>fruit</b>	<b>good</b>
G4160	G3761	G1186	G4550	G2590	G2570
<b>ποιεῖν</b>					
<b>bring forth</b>					
G4160					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Galatians 5:17** (Parallel theme): For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

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