

# Matthew 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

## Analysis

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The conclusion: you shall know them by their fruits. This summarizes the test for false prophets and applies to all believers. Fruit-bearing validates faith. This doesn't mean earning salvation by works, but that genuine saving faith inevitably produces fruit—transformed character, good works, spiritual growth, love for God and others.

## Historical Context

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James echoes this teaching: faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26). Paul teaches that we're saved by grace through faith, not works—but we're saved for good works, which God prepared beforehand (Ephesians 2:8-10). Fruit validates faith.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What fruit is growing in your life that validates genuine faith in Christ?
2. How can you encourage fruit-bearing in your church community without fostering legalism?

## Interlinear Text

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ἄραγε	ἀπὸ	τῶν	καρπῶν	αὐτούς	ἐπιγνώσεσθε	αὐτούς
Wherefore	by	G3588	fruits	their	ye shall know	their
G686	G575		G2590	G846	G1921	G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 7:16** (Parallel theme): Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

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