

Matthew 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Analysis

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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

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

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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