

Pastor Ron Case
3/2/25

“Fruits of Faith”

**“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
(James 2:17)**

Plastic Fruits

Matthew 23:27-28 – ²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

2 Timothy 3:5 – “Having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

The Real Deal

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 – ⁸ “For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

Signs of Life:

(1) Turning to God

Psalm 27:8 – “You have said, ‘Seek my face.’ My heart says to you, ‘Your face, LORD, do I seek.’”

Micah 7:7 – “But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.”

(2) Resisting the Pull of Idolatry

1 Corinthians 12:2 – “You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.”

1 John 5:21 – “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 – ¹ “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking (*aphorao* – to consider attentively, concentration on one thing at the expense of other things) to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...”

(3) Serving God

Titus 3:8, 14 – ⁸ “The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

¹⁴ And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.”

Romans 12:11 – “Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.”

(4) Waiting for The Lord

1 Corinthians 1:7 – “so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait (*apekdechomai* – eagerly await) for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Hebrews 9:28 – “so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)