

Luke 6:43

For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

Have you ever seen an apple tree, or a lemon tree, or an avocado tree before? When you did, did you notice one thing that you will never, ever see them doing, and that is pluck a piece of fruit from itself and start eating it.

God created fruit trees that way, because their purpose is that they would bear fruit for others and not themselves.

† **Genesis 2:9a** *And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.*

Think about that for a moment, then read the next verse.

† **Ephesians 4:11-12** *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*

Do you see it? *for the equipping of the saints*

God, through the Holy Spirit, has given us all as believers gifts to be used, not for ourselves, but rather for everyone else.

† **1 Corinthians 12:7 & 11** *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

I mean, how selfish would it be if you had the gift of healing and only healed yourself whenever you needed it, but never healed anyone else?

Or for me, I have the gift of teaching. Now what benefit would it be if I only taught myself and did not teach others?

You also have been gifted by the Holy Spirit, the question is, are you using that gift, and if you are, are you using for yourself or for others benefit? Are you being an orange tree, living off of your own oranges, or are you producing oranges to give to others?

Maybe you are a tree, but have not produced any fruit yet because you don't know what kind of a fruit tree you are. For you, search the bible, also one book I highly recommend to others is "Living Water" by Chuck Smith, who does a tremendous job on teaching about the gifts of the Spirit and what they are. Also pray about it, and ask the Lord to show you as well, you may already be an apple tree and producing fruit that others are eating, you just don't realize it.

✝ **1 Corinthians 12:1** *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:*