

## Matthew 7:16

*You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?*

There was a posting on social media of a picture of a bag that said on it that it contained eight Hotdog Buns, yet inside the bag was eight Hamburger Buns. It kind of reminds me of the old saying of “you can’t judge a book by its cover”, or one I just came up with is that “you can’t judge a movie by its trailer”.

You can look at the book cover that may look cool, but the context of the book may stink, or the cover may be plain and simple, yet the contents can just blow you away. One example is the bible, it’s usually one color and it just says Holy Bible on the outside, no eye catching graphics or postings saying “BUY ME”. Nope, just plain and simple, yet the contents are life changing, literally!!! And no other book in the world has sold more copies than God’s Word, the Bible.

Or I have seen trailers for movies where they put all the best parts of the movie in a 30 second trailer, and the rest of the movie stinks. I have also seen simple trailers and the movie turned out to be fantastic.

With all that in mind, look at today’s verse again, which are Jesus’ word: *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?*

Just as you can’t judge a book by its cover or a movie by its trailer, you can’t judge someone by what they look like, but rather by their fruit, just as Jesus said that *“You will know them by their fruits.”*

Just like you can’t go to an apple tree and expect to find onions. Yet I think a lot of Christians may struggle with not seeing any fruit in their lives, therefore they think they are not producing fruit at all. But maybe you are a potato, with your fruit being buried deep beneath the dirt and your fruit is in those hidden things that you do, yet you are expecting to be an orange tree, for everyone to see this tremendous fruit of beautiful ripe oranges coming from you.

I know I struggled with this for the longest time. When I found that I had the gift of teaching, I taught a series on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. But when it came time to teach on the gift of Evangelism, I really struggled, because I wanted that gift. Or simply I was a potato plant wanting to produce oranges. But the Lord spoke to me clearly, that even though I don’t have the gift of Evangelism, my gift of teaching would help equip those who do have the gift of Evangelism to go out and do what they are called to do. Therefore, I was in a sense taking part in their ministry. So, I should not have been looking for my fruit as people being saved, but rather Christians growing stronger as I help teach them God’s Word.

So if you are gifted by the Lord to do something and you don't see fruit, maybe you are looking for the wrong fruit. Let's say that you have the gift of Administration; therefore, the fruit would be things running smoothly in the church, not people raising their hands in worship or going forward to be saved, but your gift of Administration did help out in those other fruits seen, because if the church was in chaos, people would not be raising their hands in worship and the lost would not be saved, because the focus would be on the chaos. So thank you for those who do have those hidden potato gifts like Administration.

† **1 Corinthians 12:22 (NLT2)** *In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.*

So, if you are not seeing fruit in what you are doing, maybe you are looking for the wrong fruit, you could be looking for potatoes on a Avocado tree.

† **1 Corinthians 12:29-30 (NLT2)** **Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!**

† **Luke 6:43-44** *For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.*