

## How To Bear Fruit In The Valley

*"You have made me as strong as a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil. My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; my ears hear my desire on the wicked who rise up against me. The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree---yes he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. **Those who are planted in the house of the LORD will flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,** and they will say about you, 'The LORD always does right! God is our mighty rock.'"*

**Psalm 92:10-15**

### I. Introduction

### II. Fruit-Bearing and Valleys: Remaining Vibrant In Every Season

**1. Realize that there aren't many fruit trees on the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.**

*"Now the people of Beth Shemesh were **reaping their wheat harvest in the valley;** and they lifted their eyes and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it." **I Samuel 6:13 (NKJV)***

**2. In the valley, you can either see \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, I will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her there. **I will give Israel her vineyards from there, and the Valley of Achor as a door of hope;** she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt. "And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' and no longer call Me 'My Master.' For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more." **Hosea 2:14-17 (NKJV)***

*"The plain of Sharon will again be filled with flocks for my people who have searched for Me, and the valley of Achor will be a place for even the herds to lie down and find rest." **Isaiah 65:10***

**3. Look for new \_\_\_\_\_ in your valley and not \_\_\_\_\_**

*"As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools." **Psalm 84:6***

*"He (the Lord) makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst." **Psalm 104:10-11***

**4. The valley is a place of \_\_\_\_\_ and fresh \_\_\_\_\_**

*"How can you say, 'I am not defiled...? **See how you behaved in the valley;** consider what you have done. You are like a swift female camel running here and there..." **Jeremiah 2:23***

*"**Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith;** test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?" **II Corinthians 13:5***

**"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!"** For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision." **Joel 3:14**

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." **Joshua 24:15**

5. \_\_\_\_\_ until you find \_\_\_\_\_ in your valley

"And **Isaac dug again the wells of water** which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them. Also **Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well** of running water there." **Genesis 26:18-19 (NKJV)**

How to dig....

- ☐ Be found digging in God's Word daily
- ☐ Make prayer a priority
- ☐ Treasure your personal devotional time
- ☐ Cultivate a new flexibility regarding embracing changes---personal, professional and relational
- ☐ Intentionally spend time with spiritually, emotionally and relationally healthy people
- ☐ Develop a mindset that believes that the valley is about beginnings---not endings

"We hear tears this side of heaven. What we don't take time to contemplate are the even louder cheers on the other side of death's valley."---**Zig Ziglar**

"When you are in the valley, keep your goal firmly in view and you will get the renewed energy to continue the climb."---**Dennis Waitley**

"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." ---**Martin Luther King Jr.**

"Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter." ---**Francis Chan**

"If God is your partner, make your plans **BIG!**" ---**D.L. Moody**

"You are the only **Bible** some unbelievers will ever read." ---**John MacArthur**

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."---**Jim Elliot**

**Answer Key:**

1. *mountaintops*
2. *trouble and affliction-----door of hope*
3. *favor----trouble*
4. *self-examination----decisions*
5. *Keep digging----fresh water*