



FAKE FRUIT

Week 37 | February 10, 2025

The “*fake it till you make it*” mindset has done more damage to humanity than we will ever realize. The problem **isn’t** that we aren’t *successful*, quite the opposite actually. We as humans are **extraordinary liars**, brilliant *actors in this grand play* that we find ourselves in. It’s so easy to pretend, so simple to **act one way** in public while our *private thoughts and lives* remain much different and darker. The Bible teaches that we would be **known by our fruit**, but what about those whose fruit appears beautiful on the outside but *remains lifeless* and rotting on the inside?

“Nothing **fails** like success,” as the saying goes, is true now more than ever before. There are so many in our families, churches, and communities who believe they are *right with God* because on the surface their lives appear to be good, or at least **not overly evil**. Since their *weakness isn’t obvious* or apparent, they and others see no reason for change and certainly **no need for assistance**. This *fake fruitfulness*, the production of “good deeds” in our own strength and from **impure motives**, keeps us from *coming to God* in humility and desperation as we all must **to be saved** and live *the Christian life*. The cure for this sickness can and will be **painful, uncomfortable, and shocking**; but what our people desperately need is:

1. Exposure (Luke 8:17)

- a. **NOTE:** We often **hide** behind *our masks*, playing make-believe with **ourselves** and **others**, pretending that *we’re okay* even when we surely aren’t. The **lies** we tell *internally* and *externally* must be revealed and our **fake fruit** *exposed as such* in order for God’s healing and **restoration** to take place. Only He can do so, for while we may see what’s on *the surface*, our Father knows the true heart of man. (Eph. 5:11; Is. 44:25)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Lord God, thank You for **shining Your light** into *the darkness* of our lives, illuminating the path to **life** and revealing to Your people the *hidden truths* of Your word. Shine that light on us once more, exposing every **toehold**, **foothold**, and **stronghold** of sin in our lives. *Break through* all of the deception, revealing to us all of the lies told and believed. Pour out Your **discernment**, Father, making *obvious* all of the fake fruit and **empty works** that surround us.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Temporary **humiliation** is far better than eternal *damnation*. (Isaiah 57:12; Jeremiah 13:26)

2. Humility (James 3:13)

- a. **NOTE:** When faced with **humiliation** we have two choices: 1. Embrace an *attitude of humility* and experience God’s grace as a result, or 2. Dig deeper into **our pride** and reap *the destruction* that comes with it. Pray for those whose fraudulent fruit has been **exposed, shamed, and discovered** to *humble themselves* before the Lord so that He might pick them up in honor. (Proverbs 18:12; James 1:21)

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for the *grace* of Your **humiliation**. Thank You for exposing the sin and *falsehoods* of our lives as such, revealing beyond a shadow of doubt how much we **desperately need You**. Grant to us the grace of humility in response to Your work, cultivating within us *an attitude* of **reverence, respect,** and **fear** that allows us to receive Your correction and *respond accordingly*.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** Our **rock bottom** becomes our *bottom rock* when we stop digging. (**James 4:10**)

3. Fertility (**Luke 8:15**)

- a. **NOTE:** Ground that has been **exposed** and **humbled**, cleansed of *all of the weeds* pretending to be fruitful vegetation, is soil fit to **receive God’s word** and produce the *good fruit* that comes as a natural result. The key difference, **He is the one** producing the fruit *in* and through us. He is the **source, focus,** and **end result** of *a fruitful life*. If anything else lies at the center, it will lead to **barrenness** and spiritual **starvation**. (**Philippians 2:13; John 15:5**)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Lord, thank You for **bringing life** into the *barren wasteland* of our hearts. Thank You for the grace and gift of Your **revival** and **renewal**, for turning that which *was dead* into a lush wilderness. Please do so **once more** in the hearts of those who have experienced *Your exposure* and humbled themselves in response. **Restore the soil** of their hearts so that they may *produce much fruit* while leaning onto and into You, our **true source** of *strength and power*.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** We **partner with God** in the *cultivation of our heart’s soil*, but only he can make the plants **grow**. (**1 Corinthians 3:6**)

Questions for Reflection:

- What **weakness, failure,** or **shortcoming** are you *hiding*? Where are you pretending to be **okay** even though *you aren’t*?
 - Remember, **God already knows**. He’s been *fully aware* of who you are, all that you’ve done, and all that you will do from day one. Admit **your need** to Him and let Him *join you in your weakness*.
- What has been **your response** in the past to *humiliation*?
 - Choose today to humble yourself. A lesson **learned well** the first time need not be *repeated again*, for the truly humble cannot be **humiliated**.
- What fruit in your life has been produced by **your own power** and for the *wrong motives*?
 - Ask God to cleanse you of all **arrogant pride** and **selfish ambition** through the *power of His blood*. Then allow Him to work in and through to do **so much more** than you can even imagine.