

Fruitfulness

by Wayne Goff

Several years ago, the Associated Press released a study done by an agricultural school in Iowa. It reported that the production of 100 bushels of corn from one acre of land, in addition to the many hours of the farmer's labor, required 4,000,000 pounds of water, 6,800 pounds of oxygen, 5,200 pounds of carbon, 160 pounds of nitrogen, 125 pounds of potassium, 75 pounds of yellow sulphur, and other elements too numerous to mention.

In addition to these things, which no man can produce, was the critical rain and sunshine at the proper time. It was estimated that only 5% of the produce of a farm can be attributed to the efforts of man. Which leads us to the question: **"Is there any such thing as a self-made man?"**

Jesus spoke a parable about a rich farmer who had a bountiful crop one year. He decided to tear down his barns and build bigger barns, and then sit back and relax (Luke 12:16-21). The rich farmer died that night and lost everything he owned!

Jesus' own application was this: *"So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God"* (v. 21). In spite of this truth, the majority of the world is trying to collect as much of this world's goods as possible.

But notice the rich man's **emphasis**: *"What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? ... I will pull down MY barns and build greater, and there I will store all MY crops and MY goods. And I will say to MY soul, 'Soul, ... take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'..."* It was all about him, wasn't it? As though he had done all of that wonderful farming and harvesting by himself!

Dear reader, can you not agree that just as 5% of a farm's produce can be attributed to man, so can about 5% of our spiritual efforts come from us. God provides the other 95% and without Him we could do nothing!

Jesus said to His disciples: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing"* John 15:5. Be sure your life humbly looks toward God and depends upon Him, 1 Cor. 3:6.

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