



**Life Groups in Central Telford Parish**  
**Spring 2019 "Talking Jesus"**  
Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
**Galatians 5:25 – Keeping In Step**

- **Introduction**

A simple question - what do you want to do with 2019 spiritually?

- **Welcome**

Do you have rhythm ... are you a Dad Dancer or a Beyonce Buddy ... ?

- **Worship**

Read John 1:1-14 and worship the new born King for all the world. Share your reflections on the special moments of Christmas Services and praise God for them!

- **Word**

Read Galatians 5:22-25

- ❖ How does Fruit Grow? What does it need?
- ❖ How does Jesus see this happening in John 15:1-8
- ❖ What is the purpose of fruit? Is it just for nutrition? For us? For insects and other creatures?
- ❖ How does Psalm 34:8 help our understanding of this?
- ❖ What does the fruit that Paul mentions look like in practice?
- ❖ So how does Spiritual Fruit grow in us - simple question, but what is the answer?!

The issue of growing fruit and veg is not about sitting and watching from a deckchair but hard graft:

- preparing the ground
- ensuring it is ready to receive the seed
- being properly fed and watered
- being guided to grow on frames
- being pruned
- being protected from marauding birds
- being picked at the right moment
- being stored
- being consumed!

What does each of these aspects look like in the spiritual garden of our lives?

Read Galatians 5:25 again.

- ❖ Think Strictly - how do the dancers work together ... by being in perfect rhythm with one another.
- ❖ Think parades in Pyongyang, Beijing etc marchers in step
- ❖ Think of a tuning fork and how it works ...
  - ✓ The tuning fork has been manufactured to the perfect resonance for the note.
  - ✓ Listen to it!
  - ✓ Placing it on the instrument will tell you if the string resonates at the same frequency.
  - ✓ It is clear if it doesn't! It is uncomfortable and sounds wrong.
  - ✓ The string is then adjusted to the correct tension in order to be in harmony.

To produce fruit which attracts people to God and encourages them to taste and see it, we have to be rooted in Jesus, we have to be ready for him to nurture, feed, prune and be ready at the right time. This happens when we stop and listen to the Spirit and allow him to change us so that our lives resonate perfectly with him.

- **Works**

Where do you want to be this time next year, in terms of ...

- ❖ Where you live?
- ❖ What you do for a job?
- ❖ How you spend your spare time?
- ❖ Who you spend time with?
- ❖ Your commitment to God and the Church?
  
- ❖ What does “keeping in step with the Spirit” (concerning your future), mean to you?
- ❖ Does it matter?
- ❖ Is it possible to be too young, too old, too remote for God to have any interest in your future?

Someone once said “*Aim at nothing, and you’re bound to hit it*”. If we have no aspirations or targets or desires to achieve something in 2019, then frankly, we are going to have a pretty boring year! If we set ourselves a minimal, easy, target we may get a sense of pleasure at hitting it, but we haven’t stretched our capacity to achieve and we are certainly not keeping in step with the Spirit who wants to bring us life in abundance (John 10:10).

Spend a few minutes thinking about these questions:

- ❖ What does God want to challenge you to do this year?
- ❖ Do you believe that he is able to do things “*immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us*”? (Ephesians 3:20)
- ❖ Do you want to experience a deeper relationship with him this year?

Spend some time in prayer for each other and ask God to speak into the silence with pictures, words or verses for each other, to encourage and challenge you as a group and as individuals, and us all as a Church for the year ahead.

- **In The Coming Week ...**

Pray that you will be open to what God is wanting for you ...

- ✓ Open ears ... to hear what he is saying to you.
- ✓ Open eyes ... to see what he is showing you.
- ✓ Open heart ... to receive what he wants to give to you.
- ✓ Open lives ... ready to respond and go as he leads you ... wherever it may take you.
- ✓ Keep in step with the Spirit!