

And if it bears fruit next year**Erlo Stegen:****Lk 13: 7 - 9:**

"A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' " (NIV)

This parable speaks of the work of God, the owner of the vineyard. He has planted the fig tree - He has breathed life into you, showed His love and tenderness in caring for you till this day. The Father, who owns you, has planted you to bear fruit. It is just as we've heard in the testimony by Arthur who has testified how he was fruitless, in his sins, and without hope, until Christ intervened.

Christ is the vine dresser, the One who says: Let me fertilize this plant and do everything I can do for this person. Jesus died for you. He intercedes for you.

Use this very hour to get right with God. Our Lord has done everything to redeem you and bring you to heaven. If you refuse Him, and you don't bear fruit, then the awful judgement of "then cut it down" will apply to you, in everlasting torment. Remember, hell was not created for you but for the devil and his angels. But if you insist on being fused with the devil then you have to suffer his punishment.

However deep in sin you may have fallen, as we have heard in the testimony, God can turn you around if you respond to Him and repent. Then you can be a fruit-bearer in this coming year.