

1. Introduction:

- I have witnessed recently some **30 million** people at worship all at the same time.
- Reveal the England flags.
- **Worship defined** – *‘Our response to people or things to whom or which we attach significant worth or value.’* (eg. Spouse; Family; Sports team; TV Programme; Surfing internet; Career; Leisure activities, etc)

2. Our Worship:

- What has significant worth to us is what we end up worshipping in various ways.
- We devote to the object of desires our time, money, allegiance, etc.
- *Our worship of God must be our top priority – above all others.*

3. Fruit of The Spirit:

- The evidence of our worship of God is manifest in the **fruit** that we bear in our everyday life.
- **Galatians 5** details the fruit that The Holy Spirit can produce in our life, provided we are serious in our relationship with God.

4. Analogy of Fruitfulness:

- A seed must be sown in order for a plant or tree to develop. The seed must die to being a seed in order to develop fruitfulness. (*Jesus was the first seed to die so that others could become the living fruit of his life.*)
- A seed needs watering in order to germinate. (*Prayer ‘waters’ the life of those who pray.*)
- A seed needs feeding in order to develop – it needs fertiliser. (*We need to feed on God’s Word in order to grow.*)
- A plant or tree needs to be pruned and shaped in order to achieve its full potential. (*We need the nurture and discipline found in regular church attendance.*)
- All plants or trees bear flowers in season, but these are only the means of attracting insects to achieve cross-pollination and fruit –bearing. (*We need to fellowship together in order to ‘cross-pollinate’ and grow towards fruitfulness.*)
- The fruit that a plant or tree bears is not the end product – it contains the seed that can reproduce many fold. It is normally attractive, encouraging consumption and leading to reproduction. (*Our life is not our own to do with as we wish – God wants us to be attractive and fruitful in order to re-produce – to lead others into a personal relationship with God through Jesus and The Holy Spirit in other words, to make disciples!*).

5. Discussion Points:

- How do we die to ourselves?
- What type of prayers 'water' our life and encourage spiritual growth?
- Discuss ways of feeding on God's Word.
- Consider God's pruning – His discipline.
- We must '*live the Word and give the Word!*' – discuss this concept.

6. Scriptures:

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| • John 12:20-26 | Mark 8:34-36; | Luke 12:22-31 |
| • 1 Thess.5:17 | James 5:16 | Mark 11:22-25 |
| • Psalm 19:7 | 2 Tim 3:16 | John 20:30-31 |
| • Prov 3:11-12 | Heb 12:5-11 | Isa 32:17 |
| • Matt 5:16 | Gal 5:16-25 | Matt 28:16-20 |