

## Would you like a little less stress in your life?

If you stress and worry, if you are burdened by fear that you won't bear fruit, you can rest now.



The fruit doesn't come from you. It's not the fruit of Julian or Bob or Steph or Karissa; it's the fruit of the Spirit, and it comes from the gospel.

This week as we come to Colossians 1:23 and think about the mission of God that must be "proclaimed in all creation under heaven," it's easy to get consumed with thinking that effectiveness and fruitfulness depend on me. But Paul says that we will be part of this mission as we hold to "the hope of the gospel". And that's the key.

See, back in verse 6, he said it is *the gospel* that is "bearing fruit and increasing"—and notice where—"in the whole world."

We want the gospel proclaimed in all the world? Want the mission of God to go forward through us? Don't need to stress to make it happen—understand that the very nature of the gospel means that it's the GOSPEL, not US, that bears fruit. The GOSPEL, not US, that has power.

The gospel WILL bear fruit. Our role is not to stress, but to hear, to receive, to believe the gospel, and to let that power work in us.

## Response:

Take a minute to think about your life. Look for one way you've seen the gospel change your life, bear fruit in you as you've believed it. Give thanks to God for that grace.

## Prayer:

Father, thank you so much for the forgiveness of sins through the death of Christ. Thank you for his once for all sacrifice! Today I thank you as well, not just for the once-for-all work of Christ, but your ongoing power in my life, bearing fruit through the gospel. Help me to remember the good news today and to believe. Help me to trust you to bear fruit in me. In Jesus' name, amen.