

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Being Fruitful

Have you ever felt as if you've outgrown your usefulness? Sitting on the back porch, I fought to keep back the tears that pushed so hard to get out.

Why am I still bothering? I thought. *What good does it do?* And God said,

"Look up."

High above my head hung tree branches, heavily laden with cherries.

Many years ago, my husband and I had planted this Montmorency Cherry tree to commemorate the birth of our oldest daughter. (Each of our children had a special tree.)

The first year that it bore fruit, there were two cherries, and the birds got both of them.

When the cherry tree was "in its prime," it used to yield 20 quarts of cherries in one season; we often joked that we had to grow enough to feed both the birds and us.

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Now, the cherry tree is quite old. It stands very tall and is still abundantly fruitful; but we can no longer pick the cherries. As the tree grew older, the lower branches either broke off or were pruned, and all of the cherries are at the top of the tree...and totally out of reach. The birds, once again, have the cherries all to themselves.

Some might say that this tree, as old as it is, is no longer “useful,” but I know that it continues to feed the creatures of God.

And I also know that God’s thoughts are as high above our thoughts as the heaven is above the earth (to a child, that would be about as high as those “out of reach” cherries), but God continues to feed us, as old as He is!

Therefore, when you’re feeling old and useless, be fed by doing the will of God,

“Look up”

and your heart will take flight to where the rest of the Food is.

(May 27, 1998)