

THE APPLE TREE

Last week I went out to trim my two apple trees so that they would only produce the amount of apple's that their structure could hold. I had failed to do this last year and with a tremendous amount of rain in the spring and almost none in the summer, they produced a ton of apples but were not able to mature them. I had finished trimming one tree and when I got to the other, I realized that the tree had totally died. Apparently, the tree tried so hard to provide fluid and nourishment to the apples that it had stressed itself beyond what root system could withstand. Its output exceeded its intake.

Boy, are we ever like this as humans. Our pastor has a saying that I have heard many times: "When your output exceeds your intake, your upkeep becomes your downfall." I can't tell you how many people I have heard say that they used to be involved in church but the church wore them out asking them to do things so they just don't go anymore. This is not the churches fault. We often have a tendency to over commit or have an inability to say no and to not set boundaries. We have all said at one time or another "I am worn out. I have given and given without getting anything back and I am flat worn out!" Our output exceeded out intake. Christians are especially bad about this. We feel we honor God more the more work we do for Him. This is fine until other area's begin to suffer like family, health, quite time with the Lord, the list goes on. I am sure you have heard a missionary or a pastor say that they were so committed to serving the Lord that they forgot their family, I know I have. I think we could all learn to set better boundaries and to make sure we are spending quality time with our family, and our Lord. A balance of these things will be blessed more than anything else, in fact we are commanded to make our family and our relationship with Him our most important work of all. Maybe we could all take a minute to reset our priority list and make sure we are winning the war and not just the battle. May your Apples be full and matures from an abundant amount of nurturing intake!