

Walnuts in the Attic

November 15, 2020

John was born in a log house on his family homeplace in Virginia. When he turned 20 he moved from home and started a life of his own. It had been 25 years since anyone lived there and he decided to go back and see the old place.

As he walked up to the old log home, memories of growing up there flooded his mind. He went around back and then down to the creek, to discover a beautiful row of healthy mature walnut trees that stood firmly.

As a child, he was in charge of picking up the walnuts for food and one day he planted all the walnuts he could fit in a small burlap bag. Over 25 years later, he stood in amazement at what they had turned into.

Then all of the sudden, he remembered on that same day, so many years ago, after planting the seeds in the ground, he filled the same small burlap bag with walnuts and hid them in the attic.

So he climbed into the old dark attic, fought his way through spider webs and poked around in the corner. And sure enough, the old burlap bag was still there. It wasn't in as good of shape as he left it, but the bag still had something in it.

He dumped all the contents into the floor and the walnuts didn't quite look the same as they did when he first placed them there. They were discolored and so dried out there was hardly any weight to them. John picked up two the walnut hulls and squeezed them in his hand and they crumbled into dust and small pieces.

Our very lives are not so different than a seed. But the human life is capable of reproducing two different types of life. We can reproduce physically and have children. But the uniqueness of humanity is that through becoming a committed disciple of Jesus Christ, we can reproduce spiritually and bear spiritual fruit that shows up in many ways.

Jesus said in **John 12:23-26**, *“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”*