

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*12<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Readings: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Psalm 104; Matthew 7:15-20.*

Bearing fruit is a big challenge at any time. We look at nature and it seems so simple, so easy, and also so generous. We forget the struggle that nature has to produce good fruit. It is abundant only when it needs that abundance to survive. While it feeds the world, it is at a cost to itself. Abram has the same struggle for fruit. With no sense at that time of life after death, the Hebrew mind saw only physical procreation as immortal life. Scripture didn't develop resurrection theology until near the time of Jesus. Abram sees his journey from Haran as pointless if he cannot have progeny. God promises him fruit, not by adoption, but through his aged wife. A bit like Elizabeth to come! We have to know our weakness before we can bear fruit, it's not the result of our hard work. It has to be recognised as grace. That is the test of the true prophet, one who recognises the work of grace.