

TEAM

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

I am the Vine

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” John 15:5-8 NLT

Simply put, your entire spiritual life and wellbeing is dependent upon abiding in Jesus. Apart from Him, you can do nothing. In order to grow and mature, you must abide in Jesus. In order for others to recognize you as a true disciple of Jesus, you must produce His fruit. In order to bring the Father great glory, you must abide in His Son, Jesus Christ.

The illustration of a vine and branches gives us insight into the kind of nurturing and life-giving relationship Jesus desires us to have. If you detach a branch from the vine, it will die. Even if it is only partially detached, the branch will eventually wither and die. In order for the branch to grow strong and produce fruit, it must be securely attached to the Vine. So we must ask ourselves how do we stay attached to Jesus? What must we learn to incorporate into our daily lives in order to abide in Him?

Jesus gives us insight in verse 7, His words must remain in you. Making time to read the Bible must become a priority. Only through the word of God will you be able to mature and grow. The word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). The words Jesus speak are spirit and life (John 6:63). Your spiritual health depends on being regularly fed by the word. Imagine eating only once a week, what would your life look like? You wouldn't last!! Yet we try to get by in our spiritual health by only eating once a week at church. Just as you feed your physical body on a regular basis, so you must feed your spiritual being regularly.

More than reading, it is important to get the word of God planted firmly inside of you. Meditate and think about it. Study it and learn how to apply it in very practical ways. Memorize it so you have it in you when you face difficulties and temptations. The word of God is both your offensive and defensive weapon against the enemy.

Abide in Him. Abide in His love. Jesus is speaking of relationship. Connection with you is His desire. Intimacy with Him is the invitation. Love for you is the motivation. Jesus says in verse 9 that just as the Father has loved Him, HE LOVES YOU! Learn to live in His love. Spend time with Him, for He earnestly desires to spend time with you. Remember, He gave up His own life so He could spend time with you!

Jesus is the vine. The Father is the gardener, who tends to the vine and sees to the growth of the branches. The Holy Spirit is the sap within the vine that draws you, woos you, leads you and lives in you. Spend time with the One who gave it all to be with you. Abide in Him. Abide in His love. Allow Him and His word to live in you. Fruit will manifest. Fruit that will last. Fruit for His glory.

Scripture: John 15:1-17, Isaiah 27:2-6, Matthew 7:15-23, Mark 4:1-20

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