

# Bearing fruit as branches of the Vine

Is what the Lord  
desires what I desire?  
Is this my prayer and  
my living?

# John 15:1-11

- 1 I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser.
  - 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away. And every one that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bring forth more fruit.
  - 3 Now you are clean through the Word which I have spoken to you.
  - 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
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- 1 Je suis le vrai cep, et mon Père est le vigneron.
  - 2 Tout sarment qui est en moi et qui ne porte pas de fruit, il le retranche; et tout sarment qui porte du fruit, il l'émonde, afin qu'il porte encore plus de fruit.
  - 3 Déjà vous êtes purs, à cause de la parole que je vous ai annoncée.
  - 4 Demeurez en moi, et je demeurerai en vous. Comme le sarment ne peut de lui-même porter du fruit, s'il ne demeure attaché au cep, ainsi vous ne le pouvez non plus, si vous ne demeurez en moi.

5 I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered. And they gather and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 **If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to you.**

8 In this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, so you shall be My disciples.

5 Je suis le cep, vous êtes les sarments. Celui qui demeure en moi et en qui je demeure porte beaucoup de fruit, car sans moi vous ne pouvez rien faire.

6 Si quelqu'un ne demeure pas en moi, il est jeté dehors, comme le sarment, et il sèche; puis on ramasse les sarments, on les jette au feu, et ils brûlent.

7 Si vous demeurez en moi, et que mes paroles demeurent en vous, demandez ce que vous voudrez, et cela vous sera accordé.

8 Si vous portez beaucoup de fruit, c'est ainsi que mon Père sera glorifié, et que vous serez mes disciples.

- 9 As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; continue in My love.
- 10 If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
- 11 I have spoken these things to you so that My joy might remain in you and your joy might be full.

- 9 Comme le Père m'a aimé, je vous ai aussi aimés. Demeurez dans mon amour.
- 10 Si vous gardez mes commandements, vous demeurerez dans mon amour, de même que j'ai gardé les commandements de mon Père, et que je demeure dans son amour.
- 11 Je vous ai dit ces choses, afin que ma joie soit en vous, et que votre joie soit parfaite.

# Abiding in Christ as a branch of the vine

- **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you **abide in Me**.
- To abide in Christ is to remain in the vine, attached to the vine
- I cannot bear fruit by my own will, volition, or independence
- I must depend on the Lord, I must be attached to Christ

# To abide

- Greek word: meno, which has the thought of not only dwelling and staying, but also of **expectancy, enduring, waiting for**
- To abide is to expect something, either a result or an outcome
- The Lord abides in us with an expectancy, a longing
- Do we abide in Him also with an expectancy, a desire to see something fulfilled?
- What is the Lord's expectancy?
- What is our expectancy?

To bear

fruit

# To bear fruit is to bear believers

- You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should **go forth and bear fruit** and that **your fruit should remain**, that **whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you** (John 15:16)
- The thought in John 14 and 15 is the multiplication of Christ, the branching out and spreading of Christ as the vine
- The Father's house and mutual abodes in chapter 14, and the vine tree in chapter 15, are related to the multiplication of Christ

# How do we bear fruit as branches?

- Abiding in the Lord
- Seeking the Lord, close to the Lord
- I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**
- Seize every opportunity to pray to the Lord
- I need to ask the Lord why I am barren, why I do not bear fruit
- Fruit bearing is an indication of whether I am abiding in the Lord or not
- Fruit bearing is the ultimate test of how real and living the Lord is to me in my experience
- I may have all the right teaching and good speaking, yet without fruit, without people to care for, I am a branch that will be cast away
- Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, **He takes away**

# By letting the Lord's words abide in us

- If you abide in Me, **and My Words abide in you**, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to you.
- We need to read the word of the Lord
- Even more, we need to listen to the word of the Lord
- Even more, the words of the Lord need to abide in us
- Many times, it is easy to hear, but also easy to forget, or not pay heed
- For example, the Lord may speak to me to call someone, or to visit someone
- Does His word abide in me, to the point that that word controls me and directs me?

# What happens when the Lord's words abide in us?

- Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, **He takes away**
- Now **you are clean** through the Word which I have spoken to you.
- We are cleansed, purified through the Word
- The Word takes away that in me which is not fruitful
- For example, my disposition to not to want to talk to people, to be wrapped up in my own world, my own desires
- In my desire to bear fruit, to be fruitful, I need to be cleansed from any impure motive
- All the fruit bearing must be to glorify the Son as the vine, to bear fruit for His expression, not for my glory
- I need to be cleansed

# Being pruned to bear more fruit

- And every one that bears fruit, **He prunes it so that it may bring forth more fruit.**
- The Lord is never satisfied with where we are at. He is always seeking for more, to take us higher
- For this, we need to be pruned
- To be pruned is to be cut
- To be pruned is to be purged, or cleansed
- The pruning occurs only with the branches that bear fruit
- To be pruned is to experience God's dealing, God's hand through love, that I may bear more fruit
- Through pruning, I may know who God is, who I am, and who the believers are
- The more people come to know Christ through me, the more the Lord speaks to me, deals with me, corrects me, prunes me, so I can know Him and know myself

- The more fruit I bear, the more I realize my need to depend on the Lord, to abide in the vine
- The more fruit I bear, the more I realize that anything I do apart from Christ means nothing
- Even if I bring people to the Lord apart from Christ, that means nothing
- Yet if I do not bring anyone to Christ, or help anyone to grow, that means that I am a branch that is withered, with no enjoyment of life
- If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is **withered**. And they gather and cast them into the fire, and they are **burned**.

# Bearing fruit by asking in the Lord's name

- If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, **you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to you.**
- Do I have prayers to the Lord based on the words that He speaks to me?
- My faith is small. I am a man of little faith
- Yet ironically, the less faith I have, the more my prayers should be
- To abide in the Lord is not to be a strong and overcoming Christian
- Rather, it is to recognize our weakness, our inability, our lack of faith, and our need of many more prayers
- A praying Christian is actually the weakest person who realizes that he or she has the least amount of faith

- To bear fruit is not to go out and do something, but to respond to the Lord within us, who is abiding in us
- To bear fruit is actually the outflow of abiding in the Lord, and letting His words abide in us
- The Lord must speak to me through His word
- I then respond to His word by asking in His name

# To bear fruit is to be the Lord's disciples

- In this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit, so you shall be My disciples.**
- A disciple is not just a believer, or a branch
- A disciple is a branch in the vine that bears fruit
- A disciple is a branch that glorifies the Father
- Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and make **disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:
- Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world
- A disciple is one who disciples others
- Am I satisfied to be merely a believer, or do I want to become a disciple?
- If I want to become a disciple, I must bear fruit

# What is my exercise?

- Do I pray for people?
- Do I listen to the words of the Lord?
- Do I abide in the words of the Lord?
- Do I have the heart of the Lord for people?
- Do I invite people to the meetings?
- Do I speak to people?
- Am I willing to be pruned by the Lord?
- Am I willing to be adjusted?
- Am I ready for my routine church life to be pruned so I can be fresh and living?
- Am I willing to confess that I am barren, fruitless?
- Am I willing to pray to the Lord to show me why?

<p>Abiding in the Lord to bear fruit</p>	<p>Letting the Lord's words abide in us to bear fruit</p>	<p>Asking anything in the Son's name to bear fruit</p>
<p>The fruit bearing here is to bear believers to be the expression of the Son who is the vine tree</p>	<p>Reading the word, listening to the word, and allowing the word to speak to us</p>	<p>Prayers to the Son based on the words that He speaks to us</p>
<p>To abide is to expect something, either a result or an outcome</p> <p>The Lord abides in us with an expectancy, a longing</p> <p>Do we abide in Him also with an expectancy, a desire to see something fulfilled?</p>	<p>The Lord's word takes away everything in us that does not bear fruit</p> <p>The Lord's word cleanses</p> <p>The Lord's word prunes us so we can bear more fruit</p> <p>When the Lord speaks to us, we need to keep that word</p>	<p>The weaker we are, the less faith we have, the more we need asking prayers</p> <p>A praying Christian is actually the weakest person who realizes that he or she has the least amount of faith</p>
<p>When we bear fruit, we become the Lord's disciples</p>	<p>The more He speaks to and prunes us, the more we bear fruit to express Him</p>	<p>This becomes our exercise, our way of living. Asking in the Son's name results in a living according to our prayers</p>