

John 15:4-6

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Jesus gives a great example in today's verses of how we are to abide in Him if we want to see good fruit in our lives, and I say that because you don't have to be a gardener or person who knows everything about plants to understand what He is saying. Because, we have all seen dead branches laying on the ground, and we know that are dead because they are all dried up and they are no longer on the tree or bush, therefore it's not getting any water or nutrients, and it cannot survive and it dies.

But in today's verses, notice that Jesus says to the branch, "Abide in Me" not "bear fruit" because we only can bear fruit if we abide in Jesus. Just like we know a branch dies when it's not hooked into the tree or bush. Yet we tend to try and bear fruit of our own efforts or abilities, then we get frustrated when there is no fruit, and that's because we don't heed Jesus' words and focus on when Jesus says to bear fruit but don't focus on Him telling us to abide in Him. So when you read Jesus' words, you now know one reason why there is no fruit in your life, maybe because you are not abiding in Jesus.

Another reason may be because you are rooted into the wrong bush, which simply means you are rooted in the ways and things of this world and you are trying to do Godly, spiritual things in the flesh and not the spirit, just as Jesus said.

† ***Luke 6:43-45 For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***

Another reason could be that you are expecting to see fruit overnight, when it actually takes times before you see fruit. James teaches us this as well.

† ***James 5:7-8 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

So, ask yourself this weekend, “Am I bearing fruit, and if I am, what kind of fruit is it? Fruit that bring glory and all attention to me, or does it bring glory to God and the furtherance of His Kingdom? Or if I am not bearing fruit, why? Is it because I am rooted into the things of the world and not to Jesus? Or maybe I am expecting fruit to happen immediately, instead of waiting on God’s timing?”

I believe that we all bear fruit or everyone is working to bear fruit, but once again, what kind of fruit are we bearing or trying to bear? For your glory or for God’s glory? Are you doing it of your own efforts or allowing the Lord to work through you?

Remember, you never see an apple tree straining to produce fruit. It simply provides good fruit when it is being watered and fed and nurtured by the owner (God). Same is true of a thorn bush, it never strains to produce fruit, because it was not created to do so, therefore, it doesn’t even want to or cares that it’s not, because it’s happy producing thorns to protect itself, and not allow anyone to get close to it, and enjoys causing pain to anyone who tries to get close to it.

One last thing to remember, and that is, if you cut a branch off from the vine, the branch will die.

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

So, if you are not rooted in Jesus Christ, you will die as a fruitless bush or tree. But if you abide in Jesus, then you will see good fruit, just be patient if you don’t see it right away or even after some time, some trees and bushes take longer than others to bear fruit, but the key is they all bear fruit, and so will you in God’s timing.

† **John 17:20-23** *I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

† **John 15:4 (NLT2)** *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*