

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Topic: The True Vine and The Branches Part 2**  
**Text: John 15: 1-17**

**Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024**  
**Facilitator: Pastor Yewande Efodili**

**Recap from last week study:** Christians are to remain in Jesus like the branches are attached to the vine. He gives us all that we need to sustain us in this life and for all eternity. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, and the father is the vinedresser/gardener who cuts back the branches that do not produce any fruit, and the branch that produce fruit, He prunes so it can produce much fruit. John 15:1-4.

**Fruitfulness:** is the act of bearing fruit, to bearing more fruit and much more fruit when you abide/remain in Christ. Our relationship with Jesus is the means by which fruits appear in our lives, but it is the Holy Spirit **constant and continual life giving flow** which makes fruit bearing possible and normal. Thus they are the Fruits of Righteousness by Jesus Christ James 3:17-18 and they are also the fruit of the Spirit. Gal.5:22-23.

v5: "I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, **apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.**" *Fruitbearing is not only possible but certain if the branch remains in union with the vine. But if the life of Christ permeates a disciple, fruit will be inevitable.* From Expositor's bible.

v6: If a person (anyone) does not  **dwell in Me**, he is thrown out like a [broken-off] branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and **thrown into the fire**, and they are burned.

**Failure to maintain a vital connection brings its own penalty—rejection and uselessness.** *fruitfulness is normal for believers. An absolutely fruitless life is prima facie evidence that one is not a believer. Jesus leaves no place among his followers for fruitless disciples. The only option for such people is to be thrown away and burned.*

**Answered Prayer: Q:** *what is the link between Obedience and answered prayer?*

v7: If you **live in Me** [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, **ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.** Ps.37:4 "*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*" Read John 14:13-14. Heb.11:6

*To remain in Christ and to allow His words to remain in oneself means a **conscious acceptance of the authority of His word and a constant contact with Him in prayer.***

*The prayer request itself must be related to a definite need and must be for an object Jesus himself would desire. Jesus never promises to gratify every chance whim believers may have. But **as long as they are seeking the Lord's will for their lives.***

v8: When you bear (produce) much fruit, **My Father is honored and glorified**, and you show and prove yourselves to be **true followers** of Mine. Matt.7:20, Lk 6:43-44. Just as Jesus glorified God by his life, so his disciples will glorify God by theirs.

**Abide in Christ's Love and receive Joy – Those who abide in Christ will receive fullness of Joy!**

v9: I have loved you, [just] as the Father has loved Me; **abide in My love** (continue in His love with Me).

v10: If you **keep My commandments** [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will **abide in My love** and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love.

v11: I have told you these things, that **My joy and delight may be in you**, and that **your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing.** (Thomas Slager Quote – "If your life is lacking joy, it is because your life is lacking Jesus).

**Love unites us to Christ as branches are united to a vine.**

Two results stem from this relationship: **obedience and joy**. Obedience marks the cause of our fruitfulness; joy is its result. Obedience in carrying out His purpose guarantees success, for Jesus never plans failure for his disciples. Joy automatically follows when we realize that the life of Christ in us is bringing fruit—something we could never produce in our own strength.

### **Loving God's People**

v12: This is My commandment: that you **love one another** [just] as I have loved you.

v13: No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than **to lay down** (give up) **his own life for his friends**.

v14: **You are My friends** if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do. *What is a Friend?*

v15 I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you **My friends**, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.]

v16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I Am], He may give it to you.

17 This is what I command you: that you love one another. (This message is not about Fruit but about the Vine).

### **Conclusion:**

We are effectively lifeless without Christ. When we earnestly seek to be obedient to Jesus, we will abide in His love. Put off the old self, and put on the new self by crucifying sin and worldliness so we can keep our eyes on Jesus and thus become a fruit bearing Christian. Eph.4:22-24.

1John 2: 5-6 *"But whoever habitually keeps His word and obeys His precepts [and treasures His message in its entirety], in him the love of God has truly been perfected [it is completed and has reached maturity]. By this we know [for certain] that we are in Him: whoever says he lives in Christ [that is, whoever says he has accepted Him as God and Savior] ought [as a moral obligation] to walk and conduct himself just as He walked and conducted Himself".*