

Jesus Said It

John 15:1-8

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Transition

Jesus teaches with a metaphor

In the metaphor

Breakdown of the Metaphor

- **The True Vine:** Jesus
- **The Gardener / Vinedresser:** God the Father
- **The Branches:** The disciples / believers
- **The Fruit:** The spiritual outcomes and actions of a life connected to Jesus

I. Jesus is the source of life

John 15:1-2

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A. Unpack Text

1. Jesus declares, “I am the true vine” — the final and perfect fulfillment of Israel’s calling (Psalm 80; Isaiah 5).
2. The Father is the “husbandman” (vinedresser) — actively involved in cultivating spiritual life.
3. Two types of branches are revealed:
 - a. Branches that bear fruit — pruned for greater fruitfulness
 - b. Branches that do not bear fruit — removed

B. Elaborate on the two kinds of vines

1. Bear no fruit – The gardener cuts it off.
2. Bears fruit – The gardener prunes
 - a. Pruning with a purpose
 - b. Pruning a branch it will develop more off shoots and therefore more fruit.

Good news

Bad news

C. Danger

1. If you are not bearing fruit you will be cut off.
2. What is the fruit of your life right now
3. What fruit is coming from your branches?

D. Powerful

1. Cutting away
2. Removing distractions
3. Correcting wrong attitudes or habits
4. Allowing trials that refine your faith
5. Cutting off things that are “good” but not “God’s best”

Illustration

- Carol Matthews in hospital – 80 years old.
- I was told everything that was happening.
- She displayed such peace and joy.
- It’s going to be alright.
- Me – You have the best attitude.”
- Pastor Tim - “God is changing me”

A. What is Jesus claiming?

1. **Life originates in Christ alone.**
 - a. not religion
 - b. not effort
 - c. But union with Him.
2. The greatest reality in the universe is **union with Christ**
3. The worst reality in all of the universe is separation from Him.

Colossians 1:16-18

¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the

head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

B. Observation

1. Christianity is not behavior modification.
2. Christianity - **is connection to the supernatural life of Jesus.**
3. God is actively working in believers — pruning, shaping, refining.
4. Pruning is not punishment — it is preparation for greater power.

Illustration

- A vineyard keeper cuts back healthy vines.
- To the untrained eye, it looks destructive—but in reality, it allows more life to flow into fewer branches, producing richer fruit.
- Likewise, God removes distractions, habits, and even relationships to increase spiritual vitality.

Application

1. Ask - “Am I truly connected to Christ, or just near Him?”
2. Ask for a pruning
3. Embrace pruning seasons — don’t resist them.
4. Yield to the Father’s work — even when it’s uncomfortable.

II. I will depend on Jesus

John 15:3-5

³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

A. Unpack

1. “Abide in me, and I in you” — a mutual indwelling relationship.
2. The word *abide* (Greek: *meno*) means to remain, dwell, continue.
3. “Without me ye can do nothing” — absolute dependence.
4. The branch has **no independent life source**

B. All LIFE flows from the vine.

Connected to the vine you have life flowing into you - ALIVE!!!

Disconnected from the vine you have NO LIFE flowing into you - DEAD BRANCH

C. Abiding is like a branch drawing “life-giving sap”
— Christ’s life flowing into us.

What can we observe here – How can we drive it home?

- Abiding is not occasional — it is **continuous connection**.
- Spiritual dryness is always the result of disconnection.
- Prayer becomes the **expression (vocalization) of abiding** — crying out in dependence.

Acts 17:28

‘For in him we live and move and have our being

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Illustration

- A phone disconnected from its charger may look fine initially—but slowly it dies.
- You can look alive outwardly but are spiritually drained because they are not abiding daily.
- For 3 years - Judas looked like he was alive on the outside

I want to abide. I really do. How can I abide Help me abide

Application

1. Abiding Means Receiving Life from Christ

Jesus is the vine—we are the branches. Our spiritual life does not originate in us; it flows from Him. If we stay connected, His life flows into us. If we disconnect, we wither. *No connection, no life.*

2. Abiding Means Remaining in His Love

To abide is to live in a constant awareness of Christ’s love. It means receiving it, trusting it, and resting in it daily. The life flowing from Jesus is not just power—it is love. *We don’t strive for love; we stay in it.*

3. Abiding Means Living in His Word

Jesus abides in us through His Word. His truth is how His life and love reach us. We don’t experience Christ apart from His Word. *If His Word is in us, His life is active in us.*

4. Abiding Means Drinking Deeply from Christ

Abiding is not passive—it is spiritual hunger and thirst. Jesus says to come, believe, drink, and be satisfied. Faith is more than belief—it is dependence. *We come to Christ as our only source of satisfaction.*

Abiding Means Experiencing His Joy

When we abide, we don't just get peace—we receive *His joy*. The very joy Jesus has in the Father begins to live in us through the Spirit. *His joy becomes our strength and fullness.*

6. Abiding Is Rooted in the Cross

Every blessing—life, love, joy, and truth—flows from Calvary. We “feed” on Christ by trusting in His sacrifice. The cross is the source of everything we receive in Him. *All of abiding is made possible through His death and resurrection.*

Abiding in Christ means continually receiving from Him

His life, His love, His truth, His joy—through faith, grounded in the cross.

III. I will heed Jesus' warning

John 15:6

If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

A. Unpack text

1. A branch not abiding is “thrown away” and withers.
2. Withering precedes destruction.
 - Spiritual decline is progressive.
3. Fire represents judgment
 - Seriousness of separation from Christ.

B. It is possible to appear connected but lack true life.

1. Spiritual decay begins subtly.
2. Neglect, prayerlessness, compromise – NO DEPENDENCY!
3. Spirit-filled life requires **ongoing surrender and connection.**

Theological Debate

- The emphasis is not theological debate
- The emphasis is **urgent spiritual reality**.
- Life must remain in Christ.

- C. Good news - You can nurture dependence
1. Examine your spiritual condition honestly.
 2. Repent quickly when you sense distance from God.
 3. Stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit — do not ignore conviction.

IV. **I will be fruitful and powerful**

John 15:7-8

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

- A. Unpack Text
1. Prayer flows from abiding.
 2. His words abiding in us shapes our desires.
 3. Fruitfulness glorifies God — this is the ultimate purpose.
 4. True discipleship is evidenced by **spiritual fruit**.
 5. From your material: prayer is the **expression of dependence and union** — both desperate and joyful reliance.
- B. The powerful benefits of abiding.
1. Effective prayer
 2. Spiritual fruit
 3. God's glory

Fruit is not self-produced — Fruit is Spirit-produced.

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Illustration

- A healthy vine produces grapes naturally.

- It doesn't strain.
- When connected, fruit is inevitable.
- Likewise, when we abide, the Spirit produces fruit.

Application

1. Let God's Word DWELL in you.
2. Expect your prayer life to change.
 - More power, more alignment with God.
3. Pursue Christ
 - C. The call to abide
 1. The Christian life is not about trying harder — it's about **staying connected**.
 2. The greatest reality is union with Christ — nothing surpasses it.
 3. The Holy Spirit empowers abiding — this is not human effort, but divine enablement.

Prayer

- Lord, attach me firmly to the vine!
- Let Your life flow through me!
- Prune me, fill me, use me!

Response

- Those who feel disconnected — return and abide.
- Those needing pruning — surrender.
- Those desiring greater fruit — seek fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.