



A Fruitful Life

Growing Character Through the Spirit

Life in the Spirit

Listen for a few things:

- What words does Jesus repeat?**
- What images stand out to you?**
- Is there anything challenging /
comforting?**



**"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
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.
You are already clean because of the word I have
spoken to you.**

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.



John 15:1-4

**If you remain in me and I remain in you, you will
bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing.**

**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.**

**If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

**This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much
fruit,
showing yourselves to be my disciples."**



John 15:5-8

Jesus is the Source

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.”



Jesus is the Source

**“You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it,
and it took deep root and filled the land.”**



Psalm 80:8–9

Jesus is the Source

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted
it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.



Isaiah 5:1-2

Jesus is the Source

The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Isaiah 5:7



Jesus is the Source

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.”



**Fruit is Expected - God helps
it grow**



Fruit is Expected - God helps it grow

Fruit is “Christ-like” Character

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



Philippians 1:9-11

Fruit is Expected - God helps it grow

Fruit is “Christ-like” Character

“You will recognize them by their fruit.”

Matthew 7:16



No Fruit -vs- Growth

“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.”

John 15:2



No Fruit -vs- Growth

**“For many years you were
patient with them.
By your Spirit you warned
them through your
prophets.”**

Nehemiah 9:30



No Fruit -vs- Growth

What Jesus Means by “Cuts Off”



No Fruit -vs- Growth

What Jesus Means by “Cuts Off”

God’s Desire Is Always to Restore and Reconnect



“And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.”

Romans 11:23

From Warning to Care

**“Every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes
so that it will be even more fruitful.”**

John 15:2



From Warning to Care

**“The Lord is compassionate and
gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.”**

Psalm 103:8



Pruning. It hurts but it's worth it!

**“No discipline seems pleasant at the time,
but painful. Later on, however, it
produces a harvest of righteousness
and peace.”**

Hebrews 12:11



Remaining Is the Key

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. “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.

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.

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



Remaining Is the Key

What does it mean?



Remaining Is the Key

What does it mean?

“Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the law of
the Lord...

That person is like a tree planted by streams of
water,

which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.”



Psalm 1:1–3

Remaining Is the Key

What does it mean?

“Apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5



Remaining Is the Key

What does it mean?

“Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.”

2 Corinthians 3:5

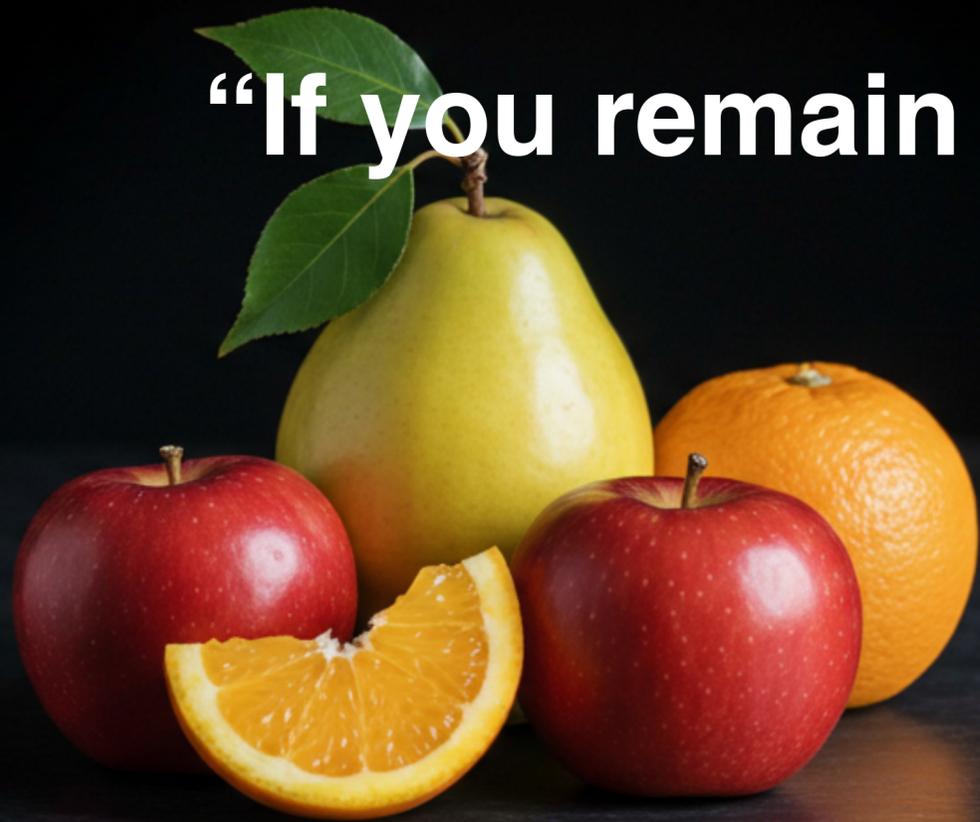
“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

Philippians 2:13



Remaining Is the Key What Does It Look Like?

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you...”



John 15:7

Remaining Is the Key

What Does It Look Like?

1. Staying connected to Jesus

“My sheep listen to my voice... and they follow me.”

John 10:27



Remaining Is the Key

What Does It Look Like?

2. Letting His words stay in you

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”

Colossians 3:16



Remaining Is the Key

What Does It Look Like?

3. Staying in community

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



Hebrew 10:24-25

Remaining Is the Key What Does It Look Like?

4. Obedience that flows from love



**“If you keep my commands,
you will remain in my love.”**

John 15:10

**Remaining Is the Key
Desires begin to change.**

4. Obedience that flows from love

**“If you remain in me and my words
remain in you, ask whatever you
wish...”**

John 15:7



Remaining Is the Key Desires begin to change.

4. Obedience that flows from love

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

1 John 5:14-15



Remaining Is the Key

Evidence of Remaining / Abiding



Why Fruit Matters





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