



With hope that this page will bring glory to God and attention to His Word, you are invited to check this page every day for a piece of scripture, thoughts on the verse(s) and a prayer. May the ideas presented here bring you fulfillment as you continue your journey with Christ.

Friday April 26, 2024

Today's Scripture:

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.
John 15:4

Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

How's your prayer life? Are you keeping up with your reading of scripture? How's your attendance at church? Are any or all of these facets in your walk of faith waning or are they vibrant and active? These are the kinds of questions we must ask ourselves from time to time. Jesus reminds us, in His famous metaphor of the branch of a vine, that we cannot bear fruit for His kingdom unless we remain in the vine: *Him*. And the only way to remain *in Him*, to *abide with Him*, is in those three elements. We must commit to prayer, reading and studying His word, and sanctified corporate worship.

The affairs of our lives, our business, our family, and all our worldly commitments can get in the way. Yes, it's important, even critical, that we spend time with family, that we tend to business, that we work (& play) but, any or all of these earthbound obligations and responsibilities can so easily take over all our time that time with Jesus is usurped. Yes, *easily*. In fact, it can happen without us truly realizing it. And pretty soon our prayer life wanes, our time in scripture decreases and we may find ourselves attending services sporadically, at best. Our walk with, abiding with Jesus, can dissipate and even disappear.

So, how can we tell if this is happening to us? How can we discern that we are not abiding in The Lord as we should? Now, that's the part that really is easy and Jesus offers the test in today's verse. *We will stop bearing fruit for His kingdom!* If we are truly abiding with Jesus, we feel a need or even a *compulsion* to help Him grow His kingdom by sharing the good news about Him.

Jesus said, "***Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation***" (Mark 16:15). The moment we realize that we're not doing that, we can likely trace the cause back to our habits. It is most probable that we are not walking with The Lord as we should. Let us re-commit to our daily walk with Christ by examining our prayers, our time in scripture and our regular presence at the worship site of our choice. He will know and He will respond with His food that nourishes us and sustains us one of His branches that bears good fruit.

Prayer:

Abiding and Ever-Present Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us for not abiding with You as we should; as You call us to. We have not spent enough time with You in prayer, in Your Holy Word and in authentic worship with others of Your flock. We can discern these waning habits because we are not bearing fruit for Your kingdom as You commanded. Re-ignite our hearts, O Lord, when we falter. Nudge us, Holy Spirit, to recognize that we have allowed worldly responsibilities and obligations to choke out and usurp our time spent with You. Help us focus and never lose sight of the goal You have set before us: to help others come to You in repentance and faith. May we commit to bearing good fruit for You in Your kingdom by abiding daily with You. We pray in Your Holy Name, May It Be So.

JOHN 15:4

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