

LIFE IN HIM

Andy Deane · 08/28/2022 · John 15-16

Obedying Jesus' words in this passage will help us avoid being withered & weak and instead be fruitful & strong.

How does God help us live a fruitful life?

"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.

(John 15:1-6)

- Jesus gives believers life-giving nourishment (15:1; 6)
- Our connection to Jesus produces the Fruit of the Spirit & good works (15:5)
- If we're struggling to produce fruit, God helps by lifting us up (15:2)
 - God is gentle with us when we struggle.
 - "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out..." (Is. 42:3)
- If we're producing fruit, God helps us by pruning (15:2)
 - Less of me & more of Christ = an increase of spiritual fruit!
 - God prunes with: difficulties (2 Corinthians 4:17 & James 1:2-3)
 - God prunes with: discipline (Hebrews 12:6)
 - God prunes with: direction (Hebrews 4:12)
- Jesus warns that failing to abide means that life fails (15:6)
 - The emphasis seems plain: there are no true disciples who do not abide.
 - A branch must remain connected to the vine or it has no life and is of no lasting good.

How do we remain in Jesus to live a fruitful life?

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. ⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. (John 15:7-16)

- We remain by: choosing (15:16)
Decide to do activities which keep us in contact with Jesus.
- We remain by: reading (15:7)
Research on benefits available at www.go2cornerstone.com/bible4
- We remain by: praying (15:7)
- We remain by: obeying (15:10)

What is the end result of living a fruitful life?

- We give: glory to God (15:8)
- We feel: assurance of our salvation (15:8)

- We experience: God's love (15:10)
- We receive: joy (15:11)
- We maintain: friendship with God (15:14)
- We have: Purpose (15:16)

Who can stop a believer from living a fruitful life?

² They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God... ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned... ³⁰ Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God. " ³¹ "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. ³² "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. ³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:2; 8-11; 30-33)

- Can the world stop me? (16:2; 8-10)
[No, the Holy Spirit is out there taking care of business]
- Can Satan stop me? (16:11)
[No, God is going to judge him in the end]
- Can I stop myself? (16:30-33)
[No, even our sin and failure can't stop God's love for us]