

## John 15:5-8 *Abide in the True Vine*

*In this wonderful passage we continue to marvel at the union we can have through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are like branches connected to a vine. We can gaze in awe at something that is so common in nature that gives us insight into profound spiritual truths. Because we are connected to Christ, we can commune with Him, live eternally fruitful lives, escape the coming judgment and bring glory to the Father. Praise the Lord!*

### Read John 15:5-8

1. What verse stands out to you most in this section? Write out the verse below. Ponder the verse and respond to the Lord in prayer.

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### Read John 15:5

2. What is the condition mentioned for bearing fruit?
3. What can we accomplish that is of eternal significance apart from Christ?

**Application:** What does this communion with Christ look like day to day? Practically, what does it mean for you to abide in Christ?

How does this union affect my identity? How should it affect my identity?

As believers, we have this amazing gift of fellowship with God. We have the privilege to come to Him daily, hear from Him in the Word, and respond to Him in prayer. As we make Him the first priority in our lives, we see the fruit of God changing our hearts, renewing our minds and working through our hands and feet to bless others. When we fail to live in this relational reality and *our* agenda and *our* desires become primary, we will inevitably see the fruits of the flesh evident in our lives.

4. Contrast John 15:5 with Philippians 4:13. What do you notice?

Read Philippians 4:12 now. What are the circumstances mentioned that Paul has learned contentment in? What challenges you in this verse?

#### Read John 15:6

5. Who are the fruitless branches? Check study Bible if needed.
6. Read John 3:18. Who stands condemned before God?
7. Read John 6:37. Who will Jesus *never* cast out?

Read Romans 8:1. Why do we need this reminder?

Consider committing John 6:37 and/or Romans 8:1 to memory.

8. What does the fire represent? See Matthew 13:30 & 13:40-42.

Fire is also spoken of by Jesus in other passages instructing us to be careful how we live. We are warned very sternly to keep ourselves from anger and to watch over our tongues (Matt 5:22). We are to be so serious about putting sin to death that we would pluck out an eye or cut off a hand (figuratively speaking) rather than allow lust to take root and go the way of scorching judgment (Matt 5:29-30). Let us take His commands to heart, putting sin to death and walking on the straight and narrow path. It is His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit that enable us to obey and grow in holiness.

**Read John 15:7**

9. Read John 6:51-66. What was the response to Jesus' teaching? Did the word abide in these 'disciples'?

Read John 6:67-69. What was Peter's response? Did Jesus' word abide in him?

10. Read Matthew 13:18-23. Which soil shows a true abiding in the Word? What are some of the trials and temptations that seek to entice you away from allowing the Word to abide in you and have its full effect?

*We must be careful what our hearts treasure. We can allow **the Word** to abide in us or we can allow **worldliness** to abide in us. There is not room for both.*

11. Read John 5:37-39. Focusing on verse 38, what is the key to having God's word dwelling in us?

The Jews had the OT Scriptures and *studied* the Scriptures. What did they fail to do? v.39

12. How will true abiding affect our prayers?

***There is an unmistakable link between true abiding and answered prayer.***

**Application:** Pray Psalm 139:23-24 *"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

Is there an area of your life that the Lord is nudging you to give over to Him?

13. "If you abide in me and my Words abide in you, *ask whatever you wish and it will be given you.*" Examine your heart. What is your heart response to the promise in this verse? Doubt? Hope? Cynicism? Expectation?

14. What do you think this means practically for His words to remain in you?

15. Read John 14:13-14 & 1 John 5:14-15. Write down your observations on these verses?  
What is the qualifier given in 1 John 5:14?

16. Read James 4:2-3. What is the cause of unanswered prayer?

**Read John 15:8**

17. What is the result of our abiding and our answered prayer?

In verse 5 we learn that we are unable to do *anything* eternally significant without abiding in Christ. In verse 6 we see that those who have a nominal attachment to Jesus but do not truly know Him will not abide and will not last in the final judgment. In verse 7, we find that, by abiding in Christ and the Word, we can see things of amazing eternal significance happen through prayer (see the contrast between verse 5 and verse 7?). In verse 8 we are reminded of how bearing fruit through a close communion with the Lord in the Word will lead to answered prayer and will ultimately result in the goal of our existence:  
bringing glory to our Maker.

18. How do we show ourselves to be His disciples?

***Fruit is anything that Jesus does in you and through you.*** Look back on your life of faith. What fruit have you seen as a result of your relationship with Jesus? How are you different because of your relationship with the Lord?

*\*Use this space not simply to record answers, but to respond to the LORD in prayer.*

ADORATION: How can I love & praise God on the basis of these verses? What do I see here that I can praise Him for?

REPENTANCE: How do I fail to realize this in my life? What wrong behaviour, harmful emotions or attitudes result when I forget this?

GOSPEL THANKS: How can I thank Jesus, the ultimate revelation of this attribute of God (reflected on in #1) and the answer to this sin or need of mine (reflected on in #2).

ASPIRATION: How does this show me what I should or could be or do? How would I be different if this truth were powerfully real to me?