

ABIDE IN THE VINE
John 15:1-11
By Raymond White

Jesus used many metaphors to characterize himself. Here is one

John 15:1 I am the true vine...

A vine is a living thing. Since Jesus says elsewhere, *John 11:25 ... I am...the life*, that he depicts himself as a living vine makes sense. And if we are branches growing from that vine — *:4 the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine* — that makes sense too.

Here are four blessings that accrue to those who remain “in the vine.”

[1] YOU WILL BRING FORTH FRUIT

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Vines, productive vines, produce fruit. grapes, berries, whatever. It’s a pleasure to walk by and pick and enjoy a handful of free berries that nature so willingly provides. Jesus says he is like that, and we can be that too, if we are plugged in. There is no such thing as a fruit-less saint.

Why is your fruit important? Because God wants you have a productive life. Not just to have lived and died, but to have mattered to someone else. Every Christian matters to someone.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, :23 Meekness, temperance, against such there is no law.

Colossians 1:10 ...be fruitful in every good work.

John 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal life...

[2] YOUR PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED

John 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

God never promised to answer the prayers of unbelievers. He may or may not, that’s his choice. But he has promised to answer the prayers of believers, those in Christ, in the vine.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself in the Lord and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

[3] YOUR FRUIT WILL GLORIFY GOD

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.

It's one thing for God to glorify us, but for us to glorify God, that's a privilege. Any child who loves his parents seeks to glorify them. "Mom, dad. See what I did? Are you proud of me? Did I make you happy?" God is like any proud papa who delights to see his children doing well.

[4] YOUR JOY WILL BE COMPLETE AND FOREVER

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

God is not a cosmic party-poop. It is not his self-appointed task to make you miserable. I hope it does not come as a surprise to you but God actually wants you to be happy. But he knows something that apparently most people don't know: that people can only be happy if they live by God's standards.

The joy that God offers, unlike the joy the world offers, is (1) complete [full], and (2) permanent [remain].