

4 - Remaining in Jesus

The Bible gives us instructions on how to build a relationship with Jesus. In the passage below, Jesus shares a gardening analogy on how to “grow” in him.

Read John 15:5-17:

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. 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 servants do not know their 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. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other."

For discussion and reflection:

1. Go through the text and circle the word "remain."
2. In this passage, the word "remain" means to continue being, to stay or to endure. Who or what should we remain in? What then will remain in us?
3. Why should we remain? What will the results be?
4. How should we remain (vs. 10 and 17)?
5. What does remaining look like for you right now?
6. What do you need to work on in order to bear fruit?
 - remaining
 - obeying
 - asking
 - loving

Take time to pray about this right now. Ask God to help you to see the areas you can work on this year as you remain in him. Write down at least two specific things you are going to work on to help you grow spiritually and bear fruit with God's help.