

Time for God's Harvest

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Grapes are the most widely grown fruit in the world

The grapevine is part of Israel's national emblem.

A multitude of colors, sizes,
and flavors.

Four main purposes – fresh fruit, raisins, juice, and wine.

One vine can produce up to
80 lbs of grapes in one season.

Over 1 million vineyards
in the world

Visual illustrations of descriptions of our relationship with
God.

- Shepherd and His sheep
- Cornerstone and the building
- Mother Hen and her chicks
- Husband and His bride
- the Head and His body

1. It's all about the Gardener – our Heavenly Father

My Father is the vine dresser

John 15:1

“Gardener” (NIV)

“Husbandman” (KJV)

The owner and the one who personally works in the
vineyard

2. It's all about the vine – Jesus, His Son

I am the true vine...

Jn. 15:1

“True” – genuine; not an upshoot; unwanted usurper;
the one that will produce fruit.

“True” Light - Jn. 1:9

“True” bread – Jn. 6:32

3. It's all about His Harvest – Glory to the Father

“every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes
away”

(2a)

By this My Father is glorified ...

(8)

How does a bountiful harvest happen?

1. Receive His pruning.

Every branch that does bear fruit He prunes that it may bear more fruit. (2)

- Too long – too far from the vine
- Disease – what will hurt the fruit
- Damaged
- Too crowded
- Pointing the wrong way

Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (3)

“clean” – purged; pruned;
ready to produce a great harvest

‘Because of what He does in you – He can do more through you.’

Samuel Chand

What does God’s pruning look like?

1. Conviction of the Holy Spirit that leads to repentance -
Jn. 16:8-11

2. Trials that cause me to trust Him more - James 1

3. Words or impact of other Christians - “iron sharpens iron” Prov. 27:17

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4. To re-prioritize for God’s kingdom

... let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely... Heb. 12:1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
Matt. 6:33

5. God's Word is God's seed in us –"produces fruit in its season. (Ps. 1)

- a pruning knife that cuts into our hearts – Heb. 4:12

2. Rely on His Power

Abide in Me and I in you. (4)

"To abide in Christ"

Positionally - every child of God abides or is connected to Christ

Practically – moment by moment decision to live –"connected to Jesus."

"To abide is to allow nothing in the life which breaks our communion with Christ; to leave no known sin, unconfessed, unjudged, unexpelled; and by prayerful faith to draw upon Him for all strength and wisdom needed

to live a Christ-like life."

J. Sidlow Baxter

- . Christ-like character
- . Christ-like conduct

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (4)
Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit for apart from Me you can do nothing. (5)

- . His power – not mine
- . His wisdom – not mine
- . His leading – not mine
- . . His words – not mine
- . His love – not mine
- . His goodness – not mine
- . His glory – not mine

“Cling to Jesus not to your comfort.”
Philip Yancey

3. Rest on His promises

If you abide in Me and
My words abide in you. (7)

- Read it
- Meditate on it
- Study it

- Live it
- Share it
- Trust it

“Trust is not a passive state of mind. It is a vigorous act of the soul by which we choose to lay hold on the promises of God and cling to them despite the adversity that at times seeks to overwhelm us.”

Jerry Bridges

If we want Him to hear our words
we must first hear His words.

In proportion as we hear, we shall be heard. C. H.
Spurgeon

4. Pray!

Ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

The power of prayer to produce
a great harvest!

. The prayer of a yielded life

(Rom. 12:1-2)

. The prayer of confession of sin –

(1 Jn. 1:9)

. The prayer of worship

(Heb. 13:15)

- . The prayer of His kingdom to come to earth
(Matt. 6:10)
- . The prayer to spread the Gospel
Col. 4:3-4
- . The prayer for more workers for the harvest
Matt. 9:38
- . The prayer to love one another as Christ has loved us
Jn. 13:34

2018 –
A Great Harvest!
Are you ready?