

Excerpts from our men's early morning Bible study.

"...Now, remember, the branch doesn't produce fruit. The branch only provides safe passage for the fruit of the vine. The branch lifts it. That is, it displays it and holds it up to keep it clean, off of the ground, but its purpose is to bear or display the fruit. So verse three, you are already clean because of the word which I spoke to you, abide or remain or stay connected to me. And I and you, as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you stay connected. To me, the only way to stay connected to Jesus is by faith. We stay connected to Him by faith. Paul said in Colossians, how you receive Christ, walk in him! Well, how do we receive Him by faith, it was a gift of God's grace. And remember everything that nothing if it ain't of grace, it ain't of God. So we then trust and we stay connected to Him by faith, and what happens when we stay connected to Him by faith, then the flow of the vine flows out of us, it flows out of us. And a branch that gets broken off is of no value. So what do they do? They collect those up, and they become fuel for the fire. Same way with us. If we're not connected to Jesus, what are we doing? We're fueling the enemy's fires. So if we're not staying connected to him, the things that we communicate are what fuels the enemy's fires. So that's the point, brother Shannon, is that when we do speak because we're staying connected to Jesus, that which flows out of us has life in it, because it's coming from the vine, and the vine is producing life. The vine is the life of the branch, as well as the life of the fruit. It's the vine that gives it life, the same way with us. So Jesus said without staying connected to him, we can't do anything. So that's what he says, for example, looking at Ephesians go to Ephesians four. Wednesday night, we looked at Ephesians four for a minute in connection to our Zephaniah reading Ephesians four, look at verse number 25 We'll start there.."

"...And what you need is what we talked about Wednesday night, what were those five things I said, no matter how you look at it, these five things are what separates us from everybody in the world. Number one, we need God to reveal whatever it is in our life like he did with Noah — like he does, whatever it looks like, and what he did with John the Baptist. God revealed a word to John, and God's got to reveal it. Wherever and whatever the problem is, Grace has got to remove it. Goodness is what replaces it — God's goodness. Then we said God's guidance is what's going to renew us to do what God gives us to do and then grateful or gratitude is what's going to keep refreshing us to do it again and again and again. God keeps revealing. Grace keeps taking away the reproach. Goodness ushers in the character of God, then God guides us in our steps because we stay connected to him. And then that gratitude keeps refreshing our heart that we are praising God and being good or useful to people around us. That's what separates the people of God from Jesus at work. But those five things are what's gonna make it different than everybody in the world as the believer, God's revelation, God's grace, God's guidance, God's goodness, and God's grateful or

gratitude that Spirit within us, that is singing Come let us magnify the Lord together, then I'm going to bless God at all times, I'm going to praise him, I'm going to make my boast any. And when they are humble here they are going to celebrate him too. So if you just remember those things, look, am I walking in a revelation from the Lord? Because if you speak in truth, you have a revelation from God. Grace has removed the falsehood. Goodness has given you the truth to speak. God's guiding you on the importance of why it is important to stay connected to him so that you can reflect Him. And then that gratitude is going to come across that you could be patient with the person as you do it because you celebrate and no matter how you look at it. These are the five things that keep us connected with Jesus, a word from God, His grace, His goodness, His guidance, and a grateful heart, man, that will make us different from the rest of the world. And this is what Paul's helping with watching what he says here, we can see all these things manifested out of that. Verse 28, let him who stole steal no longer. But rather letting labor work in his hands is good, that he may have something to give him who has a need. So let's say everything you make is not necessarily just for our sales. God gives us what he gives us so that we can bless somebody else, that we have things to be able to help other people. Now notice verse 29, Let no corrupt word the word corrupt is the same word as rotten. The same word polluted. You can say lifeless, let no rotten, worthless, lifeless, polluted words flow out of your mouth. But what flows out of your mouth should be good for necessary edification that it may impart, grace, grace to the hearers..."

Function of a Branch

When NOTHING, does NOT mean NOTHING...

Words like Spirit-filled, fruitful, faithful, joyful, loving, trusting, peaceful, restful, waiting, humble, thriving, overcoming, one who soars, the head and not the tail, are Word that should describe the followers.

Yet, it's all too common for words like, unbelief and fretting and stressed and disturbed and struggling and down and surviving to describe many who claim to put their faith and trust in Jesus.

We can't let this world shift our focus and hinder our fruitfulness

The Four-fold function of a branch in Christ:

1. Stay connected to it's Vine.
2. Provide safe passage for the fruit of its Vine.
3. Hold up or bear the fruit of its Vine.
4. Fuel for a fire when it's not connected to its life source.

2 Tim. 2:24-26

Standing, walking and running... You got to know how to walk before you can run... and to know how to walk you need to know how to stand. And God promise this... if you stand with Me, I'll not only teach you how to walk with Me, but I'll also equip you to run and soar with me (Isaiah 40:30-31). Standing always comes before walking...

#nestingwithjesus #luke #luke3 #luke1 #john15 #zephaniah3 #ephesians4 #malachi #malachi3
#malachi4 #zaharias #elizabeth #JohntheBaptist #historian #historicalreference
#iwanttobeakingdomthinker #bridgebuilding #iwanttobeabridgebuilder #kingdomminded
#luke1and74thru75 #deliveredfromsomething #deliveredtosomething #savedtoserve