

Weekly Prayer Guide – December 5, 2010

Jesus: The Vine

Week 2: December 5

Prayer Focus: Connectedness to Jesus

I am the vine and 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. John 15:5

Nothing. Do not even think about trying to accomplish anything meaningful and worthwhile without Jesus. Do not expect a fruitful outcome. This is what Jesus tells those who attempt to do something without Him. It will not work. However, there is tremendous hope in this passage of Scripture. Although it warns nothing is achieved without Jesus, it assures much fruit is produced when one does abide in Him.

Each person possesses gifts. If one wants to see real and lasting fruit from gifts, it is imperative that Christ serves as the vine to grant power and direction. When He is recognized as the source of power and reason for fruit bearing, then branches—His people—can surrender self-promotion and self-reliance. Jesus and the Holy Spirit work with the branches in order to see fruit borne, and to give rest from self-effort, which is self-elevating and self-defeating. When connected to Jesus, all that is accomplished brings glory to God, and stirs wonder for those privileged participants in His vineyard.

This week we ponder Jesus as the vine. We pray for connectedness to Him in all we do. We see Him as the stationery force for life-flow and root support to make for happenings and conclusions that produce worthy fruit. Mindful of our connectedness to and dependency on Jesus, we consider the multiple choices made each day—consciously and subconsciously—to let Him be our vine. Remain aware of those who have not yet let Jesus have place as vine in their lives. Seek ways to be instruments the Lord can use to re-direct the focus of others toward Christ, the vine.

Lord Jesus, because of You, believers live daily with the certain knowledge that we are connected to You. You are immovable and unmatched in Your might to equip saints with all necessary to bring about prolific and meaningful fruit. Thank You, Jesus, for Your steady presence in our lives. Help us, Lord, to be branches that do not disconnect from You as disconnectedness wastes resources, stops growth, and results in bitter fruit. May we desire to maintain our closeness to You to be warm, pliable, and receptive branches to others. In Thee, Amen.

Weekly Faith Challenge. Consider an aspect of your life that you know is not connected to Jesus. Contemplate a facet of your life in which you deliberately maintain self-control. Pray for the courage to release it and get fully connected to Christ. Share this struggle with a prayer partner or an accountability partner and surrender it over to the vine, Jesus. Watch what He does because of your complete connectedness to Him.

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Jersey Shore Will Graham Celebration – May 20-22, 2011, Ocean Grove, NJ