

### THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

John 15:1-8 (NIV)

#### ❖ Understanding the Players

1. Jesus is the VINE.
2. We are the BRANCHES.
3. The Father is the GARDENER.

*"Let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful."*

Titus 3:14 (NKJV)

*"I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain."*

John 15:16 (NIV)

#### ❖ A Christian and His Fruit

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

John 15:5 (NIV)

1. A basket with NO FRUIT.
2. A basket with SOME FRUIT.
3. A basket with MUCH FRUIT.

#### ❖ What Jesus is Trying to Teach Us

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

1. The "NO FRUIT" branch He will DISCIPLINE.

*"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit..."*

John 15:2a (NIV)

*My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone He accepts as a son.*

Hebrews 12:5-6 (NIV)

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

2. The "SOME FRUIT" branch He will PRUNE.

*"... while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."*

John 15:2b (NIV)

*For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.*

James 1:3-4 (NLT)

*For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver... <sup>12</sup>but you brought us to a place of abundance.*

Psalms 66:10; 12b (NIV)

3. The "MUCH FRUIT" branch He will BLESS.

*"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

John 15:7-8 (NIV)

*"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love."*

John 15:9 (NASB)

*God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.*

Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)