

What Did Jesus Mean When He Said . . .

Pastor Ray Swash

“ . . . apart from me you can do nothing . . . ”

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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.

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. 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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Luke 15.1-7 (NIV)

Christ's words “in you” is more than memorization!

Discipleship

- A) is a way of **THINKING** (doctrine),
- B) is a way of **ACTING** (ethics),
- C) results in a supernatural **EXPERIENCE** (living)
- D) is only when you are **CONNECTED** (relationship).

Too many ‘followers of Christ’ are out to ‘try’ this on their own and create nothing more than a ‘self-help religious’ failure!

Understanding The Metaphor:

Attachment is NOT

- **SACRAMENTAL** Participation

- Baptism
- Lord's Supper
- Conformation

- Doing ‘**RIGHT**’ Things

- Giving
- Helping
- Sharing

This branch is living, it is attached, it is vital and growing from the vine!

Attachment IS

- **INTIMACY** with Jesus

- Friendship
- Lord
- Relationship

- **DEPENDANCE** on Jesus

- Trust
- Faith
- Surrender

Bearing Fruit is what you've been designed to do!