

The Year of Harvest

Prayer Guide

Week 41

The Year of Harvest – The Fruit of Itself

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 15:4 (NKJV)



Prayer Focus: At first, this might seem like a very strange subject, the fruit of itself. But listen to what Jesus is saying here. Jesus is talking about the believer abiding in Jesus, just as the branch abides in the vine. And of course the lesson here is, as Jesus says, the branch does not produce the fruit. It is the life of the vine through the branch that produces the fruit. If a branch is detached from the vine, what happens? The branch dies, and will never be able to bear fruit. Jesus is saying that we must learn this vital truth. That the branch cannot bear the fruit of itself. Yet, how common it is in the church that we try to make things happen in our own efforts. We take our cues from the playbook of the world and think that techniques, and strategies will grow our churches, and make us successful. We hire consultants to help us to know the best methodologies. This is exactly the opposite of what Jesus is saying here. All of those things are the branch trying to produce fruit of itself. The secret of the fruit is not the slick methodologies of the branch, but the life of the vine. If we want to have victory in our Christian lives, we need to learn how to abide in the vine. If we want to see our church produce productive disciples, we need to learn how to allow the life of the vine to flow through us. If we want to affect our world and see sinners saved for eternity, we must learn to allow the life and character of Jesus, the vine to flow through us. When we abide in Him, His life through us will produce fruit for this time and for eternity.

Day 1: Spend time today meditating on these verses from John about the vine and the branches.

Day 2: Be honest with yourself and God, do you know how to “abide” in Jesus as your vine?

Day 3: Repent for the ways in which you have tried to live your life in your own power.

Day 4: Ask the Lord to teach you how to bear fruit by abiding in Jesus, the Vine.

Day 5: Pray for your church to actively be teaching people how to bear fruit through abiding.

Day 6: Intercede for the other churches in your city to understand this important truth of abiding.

Day 7: Pray that the missionaries you know would be bearing much fruit through abiding in Jesus.