

**THE IDOL OF CONTROL -- THE ILLUSION OF INDEPENDENCE**  
**John 15:1–11 & Matthew 6:25–33**

**The Core Tension**

The American culture teaches us the myth of the *self-made* individual.

The Kingdom of God teaches us that carrying the weight of our own universe is a crushing burden

**The RSVP Lifestyle – Jesus’ Invites Us!**

Jesus has issued an invitation to trade a life of white-knuckled burnout for a life of overflowing joy. Here is how we answer His invitation every day:

**R — REMAIN "Abide in me, and I in you" John 15:4**

**The Principle:** Let’s shift our focus from trying to control the outcomes of our lives to simply focusing on our connection to the Source.

**Reality:** Like an unplugged smartphone, we cannot run on the residual fumes of our own willpower.

**S – SURRENDER - “Apart from me you can do nothing.” John15:5**

**The Principle:** We must pull over, climb into the passenger seat, and **let Jesus drive.**

**Reality:** We cannot produce *spiritual fruit* (sacrificial love, supernatural peace, eternal impact) on our own power. **Surrender** isn't a loss of freedom; it is a *restoration* to our designed God-honoring purpose

**V — VALUE The Pruning**

**"every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:2**

**The Principle:** In the economy of God, pruning is not a punishment for failure; it is a *reward for fruitfulness.*

**Reality:** The Vinedresser often cuts away the good so that **we have room for the great.**

**P — PRAY**

**"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish" John 15:7**

**The Principle:** Worry is just talking to yourself about your problems. **Prayer is connecting directly to the Vine.**

**Reality:** When we abide, our desires naturally align with **His**, transforming our frantic panic into **supernatural peace.**

**My "White-Knuckle" Confession:**

**The one area of my life I am trying to control right now that I need to hand over to the Vinedresser is:**