

# I AM THE VINE

## I AM: PART SEVEN

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John 15:1–17 (NLT)

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

<sup>9</sup> “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup> You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.



## TWO POWERFUL TRUTHS

### 1. GOD’S WILL FOR MY LIFE IS THAT I “PRODUCE MUCH FRUIT.”

*“When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father...I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit...” (John 15:8,16, NLT)*

Fruit is the product of PERSISTENTLY OBEYING God’s principles and promptings.

*“Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.” (John 15:6, NLT)*

## 2. THE KEY TO FRUIT-BEARING IS RELATIONSHIPS.

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.” (John 15:4, NLT)*

## **GOD’S PROCESS FOR PRODUCING FRUIT**

### 1. GOD PRUNES ME FOR PROGRESS.

*“...he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.” (John 15:2, NLT)*

Pruning is when God does something that SEEMS HARMFUL but is actually fruitful.

#### **3 Ways God Prunes His People**

- He PREVENTS me from pursuing certain pathways (Nu 22).
- He gives me PROBLEMS I cannot solve (Ex 14).
- He allows PAIN in my life (2 Co 12/Pr 3:6).

*“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.” (Proverbs 20:30, GNB)*

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:5–6, NLT)*

**ACTION: Participate in the Build the DREAM series**

### 2. GOD PURIFIES ME WITH HIS PRINCIPLES. (3)

**JESUS:** *“Make them pure and holy through teaching them your words of truth.” (John 17:17, The Living Bible)*

*“Desire God’s pure word as newborn babies desire milk. Then you will grow in your salvation.” (1 Peter 2:2, GW)*

#### **The 6 Steps of Purification**

Hear it. / Read it. / Study it. / Memorize it. / Meditate on it. / Do it!

*“When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love...You are my friends if you do what I command.” (John 15:10,14 NLT)*

**ACTION: CLASS 201 / DAILY DEVOTIONS (Begins October 1)**

### 3. GOD PERFECTS ME THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.

*“But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48, NLT)*

#### **3 Principles of Perfection**

- **Covering one another in PRAYER.**

*“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” (John 15:7, NLT)*

*“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16, NLT)*

- **Serving one another with CARE.**

*“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:12–13, NLT)*

*“This is my command: Love each other.” (John 15:17, NLT)*

- **Supporting one another by being THERE!**

*“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24–25, NLT)*

**ACTION: SMALL GROUP (Connect Today!)**

**THE REWARD FOR A FRUITFUL LIFE IS JOY.**

*“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”  
(John 15:11, NLT)*