

THE RADICAL DISCIPLE: DEPENDENCE - *Strong Enough to Need God*

Main Text: John 15:1–17

INTRODUCTION

Good evening, church. Let me begin by asking you a simple question.

When was the last time you asked someone for help?

For many of us, that's difficult. Because somewhere along the way we've been taught that dependence is weakness.

Our culture celebrates independence. "Believe in yourself." "You've got this." "Trust your instincts." The highest compliment our world can give someone is, *"They don't need anybody."*

Then we come to Jesus. And Jesus says something completely different. The strongest Christians are not the most independent Christians. They're the most dependent Christians.

The world says, *"Trust yourself."* Jesus says, *"Remain in Me."*

The world says, *"You've got this."* Jesus says, *"Apart from Me you can do nothing."*

Those words are either deeply offensive... Or wonderfully freeing.

Because if Jesus is right, spiritual maturity isn't becoming less dependent on Him—it's becoming more dependent on Him.

Think about how the Christian life begins. None of us came to Christ because we had everything together.

We came confessing, *"I can't save myself."* Grace met us there.

Yet somewhere along the journey, many of us quietly begin trusting our experience more than His presence, our plans more than His leading, and our strength more than His power.

I believe one of the greatest dangers facing mature Christians isn't persecution. It's self-sufficiency.

Because self-sufficiency can look responsible. It can look disciplined. It can even look spiritual.

You can know Scripture... Serve faithfully... Lead a ministry... Even pastor a church... ...while depending less and less on Jesus.

Tonight, Jesus lovingly calls us back. Not back to striving. Back to Himself.

Here's our Big Idea: **Radical disciples remain in Christ because lasting fruit only grows through complete dependence on Him.**

Would you stand with me as we read God's Word?

(Read John 15:1-8)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He 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. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also 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. ⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not

remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"This is the Word of the Lord."

POINT ONE - What Are You Connected To?

Before we unpack this passage, let me ask you another question.

Where are you drawing your life from? Because whatever you're connected to will eventually determine the fruit your life produces.

Jesus could have given His disciples a theological lecture. Instead, He pointed to a vineyard. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."

For the disciples, this wasn't an abstract illustration. Vineyards covered the hillsides of Israel. Everyone understood that branches don't produce grapes by trying harder.

They produce grapes because they're connected to the vine. The life isn't in the branch. The life is in the vine. And that's exactly Jesus' point.

The Christian life has never been about producing life. It's about receiving life. But notice one word we often overlook.

Jesus doesn't simply say, "I am the vine." He says, **"I am the true vine."**

That word is significant. Throughout the Old Testament, Israel was described as God's vine.

- In **Psalms 80**, God planted His vine.
- In **Isaiah 5**, He lovingly cared for His vineyard, yet it produced wild grapes instead of good fruit.
- **Jeremiah** tells the same story.

God planted a choice vine, yet it became corrupt. Generation after generation, Israel failed to become what God intended.

So when Jesus says, **"I am the true vine,"** He's making an astonishing claim.

Everything Israel failed to become... Jesus became.

Where Israel was unfaithful... Jesus remained faithful.

Every promise of God finds its fulfillment in Him.

Church, Christianity isn't ultimately about attaching yourself to a religion. It's about being united to a Person.

Here's the first truth I want you to remember tonight: **The Christian life isn't lived just for Jesus. It's lived with Jesus.**

That changes everything. Many Christians spend their lives trying to imitate Jesus before they've learned to abide in Jesus.

But Jesus says something even deeper. "My life must continually flow into yours."

Then He gives one of the most humbling statements in all of Scripture. **"Apart from Me you can do nothing."**

Our flesh doesn't like that verse. We'd rather hear, *"Believe in yourself."* Jesus says, *"Apart from Me you can do nothing."*

He isn't saying people can't accomplish impressive things.

He's talking about eternal fruit. Fruit that changes lives. Fruit that glorifies God. Fruit that lasts. Only Christ produces that kind of fruit.

That's why one word echoes throughout this chapter. **Remain.**

Eleven times Jesus uses the Greek word μένω (*menō*).

It means to remain, abide, continue, dwell—to make your home somewhere.

Jesus isn't inviting occasional visits. He's inviting continual communion. Make your home in Me.

Church, Christianity isn't merely believing true things about Jesus. It's learning to live every day in fellowship with Him.

That's why every spiritual discipline is an expression of dependence.

Prayer. Bible reading. Worship. Obedience. None of them are ends in themselves.

They're ways we remain connected to the Vine.

Can I encourage someone tonight? Maybe you've been trying harder for a long time. Trying to become a better Christian. Trying to fix yourself. Trying to produce fruit. And you're exhausted. Not because Jesus is asking too much... But because you've been carrying something He never asked you to carry.

The responsibility for producing fruit has never belonged to the branch. The branch has one responsibility. Remain.

Paul says something remarkably similar. **Colossians 2:6-7** So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Just as you received Christ by grace through faith, continue walking with Him the same way.

The Christian life never graduates from dependence.

We begin by grace. We grow by grace. We'll stand before Christ one day because of grace. Everything about the Christian life is grace from beginning to end.

One of the greatest temptations of maturity is substituting experience for dependence.

We've led meetings before. Raised children before. Handled crises before. Without realizing it, we begin operating from yesterday's experience instead of today's communion with Christ.

Can I confess something as your pastor? The longer I've been in ministry, the more convinced I've become that I don't need Jesus less. I need Him more.

I've studied sermons. Prepared outlines. Worked through illustrations. Only to be reminded before stepping into this pulpit that none of those things change lives.

Jesus does.

Only the Holy Spirit opens blind eyes. Only Christ transforms hearts. Competence is a gift from God. But competence is a terrible substitute for communion with God.

Jeremiah paints a beautiful picture. **Jeremiah 17:7-8** "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Notice he doesn't say drought never comes. He says the tree continues bearing fruit during the drought.

Why? Because its roots reach a deeper source.

Church, dependence doesn't remove difficult seasons. It gives us a deeper source in difficult seasons.

Some of you may be walking through a drought tonight.

A health battle. A broken relationship. Financial pressure. A burden no one else knows you're carrying.

Jesus never promised there would be no drought. He promised there would always be life in the Vine.

That's why David could say, **"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."**

Not because life was easy. Because the Shepherd was enough.

Here's the truth I hope you'll remember:

The responsibility for producing fruit never belonged to the branch. It has always belonged to the Vine.

So let me ask you one final question. When pressure comes... Where do you instinctively turn? Because whatever you're connected to will eventually shape the fruit of your life.

If you're connected to your own strength... Eventually you'll run out.

But if you're connected to Christ... You'll discover His strength is never exhausted. His grace is never depleted. His presence never leaves.

That raises an important question. **If dependence is so life-giving...why do we resist it?**

The Apostle Paul answers that question in one of the most transparent passages he ever wrote.

POINT TWO - Why Is Dependence So Difficult?

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But he

said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Let's be honest for a moment. If I asked tonight, **"Who wants more of God's power in your life?"** Every hand would probably go up.

If I asked, **"Who wants to know God's grace more deeply?"** Again, every hand.

But what if I asked, **"Who wants to become weaker so you can experience those things?"** That's a much harder question.

Because we all want God's strength. Very few of us want weakness.

We want resurrection... But not the cross.

We want victory... But not vulnerability.

Yet Paul tells us this is often how God works. Just before this passage, Paul describes receiving extraordinary revelations from God. He had planted churches across the Roman Empire, preached before kings, and become one of the greatest missionaries in history.

Humanly speaking, Paul had every reason to become proud. That's why verse 7 begins with these surprising words: **"...to keep me from becoming conceited."**

Did you catch that? Paul doesn't say the thorn came because he had failed. He says it came to protect him from pride.

Sometimes God doesn't simply redeem our failures. Sometimes He lovingly guards us from successes that could destroy us.

Paul calls it **a thorn in the flesh.**

For centuries Christians have debated what that thorn was.

Was it illness? Persecution? Poor eyesight? A speech difficulty?

The truth is, Scripture doesn't tell us. And perhaps that's intentional.

Because every believer eventually has a thorn.

Maybe yours is chronic pain. A broken relationship. Anxiety. Grief. A wandering child. A door that never seems to open.

Whatever it is, you know what it's like to pray, *"Lord, would You please take this away?"*

Paul did. Three times he pleaded with the Lord. That should encourage us. Faith doesn't keep us from praying honest prayers.

Even Jesus prayed in Gethsemane,

Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

There is nothing unspiritual about asking God to remove suffering.

But sometimes... God gives something even greater than the answer we were asking for.

Paul doesn't receive an explanation. He receives a promise.

"My grace is sufficient for you."

The word **"sufficient"** comes from the Greek word **ἀρκέω (arkeo)**. It means *to be enough...to satisfy completely...to provide all that is needed*.

Jesus wasn't saying, *"Paul, you'll barely survive."*

He was saying, *"Paul, My grace will always be enough."*

Then He adds, **"My power is made perfect in weakness."**

The word for power is **δύναμις (dynamis)**—God's active, transforming power.

Notice where that power is displayed. Not after weakness. Not instead of weakness. **In weakness.**

That turns the world's values upside down. The Roman world celebrated power, honor, influence, and self-sufficiency. Weakness was something to hide.

The Gospel says weakness can become the very stage on which God's power is displayed. Look at God's pattern throughout Scripture.

Moses said, *"I can't speak."*

Gideon said, *"My family is the weakest."*

Peter fell on his knees before Jesus and said, *"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man."*

Again and again, God delights in using people who know they cannot accomplish His work in their own strength.

Why? Because when the work is finished... Everyone knows who deserves the glory.

This is one of the beautiful emphases of our Wesleyan heritage.

Grace doesn't simply forgive us. Grace sustains us. Grace strengthens us. Grace continues God's sanctifying work in us every day. We never outgrow our need for it.

That's why Proverbs reminds us,

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Notice the invitation. Trust. Lean. Depend.

Every one of us is leaning on something.

Our experience. Our abilities. Our plans. Our resources.

The question isn't whether you're leaning. The question is what you're leaning on.

Hudson Taylor once said, *"All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them."*

I love that. God isn't looking for impressive people. He's looking for dependent people. Can I encourage someone tonight? Maybe all you can see right now is your weakness.

You don't feel strong enough. Wise enough. Capable enough. Your weakness does not disqualify you from being used by God. It may become the very place where His strength becomes most visible.

Keep praying. God still heals. God still delivers. God still opens doors.

But if He doesn't remove the thorn today... Don't mistake His silence for His absence. Sometimes God's greatest miracle isn't removing the burden. It's sustaining His child beneath it.

Paul's response is astonishing. He begins to boast in his weakness. Not because suffering is good... But because he discovered something better than the removal of his thorn. He discovered the sufficiency of Christ.

Here's the truth I hope you'll remember: **God often grows our dependence before He changes our circumstances.**

The longer we follow Jesus, the goal isn't needing Him less. It's realizing we've needed Him completely all along.

Which leads us back to John 15. If dependence is the root... **What kind of life grows from it?**

Jesus says it is a life marked by love, joy, obedience, and fruit that lasts.

POINT THREE - What Kind of Life Grows Out of Dependence?

John 15:9-17 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have

loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

One of the greatest misconceptions about the Christian life is this: People assume dependence limits us. Jesus says dependence leads to life.

Notice what He doesn't promise. He doesn't say, *"If you remain in Me, life will be easy."* He doesn't promise a life without hardship. He promises something much greater.

A life that bears fruit. A life marked by love. A life filled with joy. A life that lasts.

Church, isn't that what every person is searching for? The world chases success. Jesus offers fruitfulness.

Those aren't the same thing. Success impresses people. Fruit changes people. Success often points to us. Fruit always points to Christ.

That's why Jesus never says, *"Go produce fruit."* He simply says, **"Remain in Me."**

Fruit is never manufactured. It's cultivated. Think about an orchard. Have you ever seen a fruit tree straining to produce apples?

No. A healthy tree simply stays rooted. It draws life from beneath the surface. Then, in season, fruit appears.

The same is true spiritually. Our job isn't to force fruit. Our job is to stay connected to Christ. The Holy Spirit produces what we never could.

Paul describes that fruit in Galatians.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Notice Paul calls it **the fruit** of the Spirit—not the fruits. Why? Because the Spirit is producing one life that looks like Jesus. Those aren't simply personality traits. They're evidence that Christ is forming His character within us.

Can I ask you something? When people spend time with you... What kind of fruit do they experience?

Do they leave encouraged? Do they encounter peace? Do they see patience? Or do they leave carrying the weight of your frustration...

Your anxiety... Your anger? Because what's happening in our hearts eventually becomes visible in our relationships.

Jesus goes even deeper. **"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love."**

Everything begins with God's love. Jesus doesn't say, *"Obey Me so I will love you."* He says, *"You are loved. Remain there."*

That is the Gospel. We don't obey to earn God's love. We obey because we've received God's love.

Religion says, *"Perform so you can be accepted."*

Jesus says, *"You are accepted in Me. Now live from that acceptance."*

Church, some of us have been trying to earn what Christ has already given. Can I remind you tonight? If you belong to Jesus, the Father isn't merely putting up with you. He delights in you because you belong to His Son.

That changes obedience. It becomes the joyful response of a heart that knows it is loved.

John Wesley often reminded believers that true holiness is love filling the heart. The more God's sanctifying grace transforms us, the more obedience becomes a delight instead of a burden.

Then Jesus gives one of the sweetest promises in this chapter.

"I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Notice He doesn't promise happiness. Happiness depends on circumstances. Joy depends on Christ.

Some of the most joyful believers I've ever known have also carried the heaviest burdens. Their circumstances weren't easy. But their lives were rooted in Someone who never changes.

Church, dependence doesn't remove every storm. It anchors us through them.

Finally, Jesus says, **"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."**

Don't miss that. Abiding never produces passivity. It produces mission.

The more we remain in Christ... The more His life flows through us.

We begin loving differently. Serving differently. Forgiving differently.
Sharing the Gospel differently.

Not because we're trying harder... But because His life is flowing through ours.

Acts 4 gives us a beautiful picture. Peter and John were ordinary men. The religious leaders recognized that immediately. But there was something they couldn't explain.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

"They had been with Jesus." Church, that's the goal.

Not impressive resumes. Not bigger platforms. Not applause.

People who have clearly been with Jesus.

So let me ask you one final question. If someone followed you around this week... Would they conclude, *"That person has been with Jesus."* Because that's the fruit Jesus is after.

Not merely what we accomplish. But who we become. Here's the truth I hope you'll remember:

Lasting fruit doesn't come from striving. It comes from abiding.

The more we remain in Christ... The more Christ is formed in us. And the more Christ is formed in us...

The more the world encounters Him through us. But before we finish, there's one more truth we can't miss. Everything Jesus has called us to in John 15... He first lived perfectly Himself. Let's finish by looking at the One who not only calls us to abide— But perfectly abided in the Father's will on our behalf.

THE GOSPEL

As we come to the close of our time together, I want you to notice something beautiful. Jesus never asks us to do something He was unwilling to do Himself. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus lived in complete dependence upon His Father.

He said, (**John 5:19**) "The Son can do nothing by Himself." A few chapters later He says, (**John 8:28-29**) "I do nothing on My own... I always do what pleases Him."

Think about that. The perfect Son of God chose to live in continual dependence upon His Father. If Jesus Himself lived that way... Why would we ever believe we can faithfully live independently?

Church, dependence isn't spiritual immaturity. It's Christlikeness.

The closer we grow to Jesus, the more we realize we've never stopped needing Him.

Nowhere is that clearer than the Garden of Gethsemane. The night before the cross, Jesus didn't pretend suffering wasn't real.

He prayed. He surrendered. He entrusted Himself completely to the Father's will.

The greatest victory in history was preceded by complete dependence.

Then Jesus walked to the cross. The One who said, **"Apart from Me you can do nothing,"** gave His life for people who could do nothing to save themselves. Church, that's the Gospel.

We are not saved because we finally became strong enough. We are saved because Jesus remained faithful where we have failed. He obeyed where we disobeyed. He died the death we deserved. He rose again so that everyone who places their faith in Him can be united to the True Vine and receive His life forever.

Paul says, **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

Christianity isn't self-improvement. It's union with Christ. It's His life flowing through ours. That's why dependence isn't simply good advice. It's the very heart of the Gospel.

INVITATION

What have you been trying to carry without Jesus?

Maybe it's your marriage. family. future. Finances. Anxiety. Grief. Shame.

Can I remind you of something? You were never meant to carry those things alone. Some of us are exhausted. Not because Jesus has asked too much of us... But because we've been trying to produce what only He can provide.

Tonight Jesus isn't saying, ***"Try harder."*** He's saying, ***"Remain in Me."***

Maybe your prayer tonight isn't, *"Lord, make me stronger."* Maybe it's, *"Lord, teach me to depend on You."*

Because the Christian life isn't becoming increasingly impressed with ourselves.

It's becoming increasingly convinced that Christ is enough. And that's the beauty of Jesus' invitation.

It reaches every one of us exactly where we are. For some of you, tonight is your first invitation to abide in Christ. You've spent your life trying to earn God's approval. Trying to clean yourself up. Trying to become good enough.

Friend... You never will. That's why Jesus came. Jesus lived the life you could never live. He died the death you deserved. He rose again so that everyone who trusts in Him can be forgiven, made new, and united to the True Vine.

Salvation begins where self-sufficiency ends.

It begins when we finally say, {"Jesus... I can't save myself. I need You."}

If you've never trusted Christ, don't leave tonight carrying what He already carried to the cross.

Come to Him. Receive His grace. Receive His forgiveness. Receive His life.

But I know many of us already belong to Jesus.

Maybe tonight isn't about coming to Christ for the first time. Maybe it's about coming back to dependence. You've trusted Him with your eternity. Now He's asking you,

"Will you trust me tomorrow morning?"

Will you trust me with your marriage? With your children? With your finances? With your future? Will you stop striving... And start abiding?

Church, whether tonight is the first time you've ever come to Jesus... Or the thousandth time you've returned to Him... The invitation is exactly the same. **"Remain in Me."**

RESPONSE

So before we leave tonight, I'd like us to spend a few moments quietly before the Lord.

Ask Him one question. **"Lord, where have I been depending on myself instead of You?"**

Now ask Him another. **"Jesus, what would it look like for me to remain in You this week?"**

Church... Throughout history there has been one universal symbol of surrender. A white flag.

When a soldier raised a white flag, he wasn't saying, *"I'm celebrating."*

He was saying, *"I can't win this battle on my own anymore." "I'm laying down my fight." "I'm surrendering."*

For the follower of Jesus... That's not a picture of defeat. It's a picture of faith. Because surrender isn't losing. **Surrender is finally trusting the One who has already won.**

A branch doesn't fight to stay alive. It doesn't strain. It doesn't strive. It simply remains connected to the vine and receives the life that only the vine can give.

Tonight, I want to give us an opportunity to physically express what I believe many of us are already feeling in our hearts.

If you look underneath your seat, you'll find a simple white cloth. There's nothing special about this cloth. It doesn't have any power. It doesn't make you any closer to God. It's simply a symbol. A reminder that tonight we're laying down our striving... Our self-sufficiency... Our need to control... And we're surrendering everything to Jesus.

Maybe tonight you're surrendering your marriage. Maybe your children. Maybe your future. Maybe your finances. Maybe your fear. Maybe your anxiety. Maybe your pride. Maybe your plans. Maybe you've never surrendered your life to Christ before.

Or maybe you've been following Jesus for years, but somewhere along the way you've picked your striving back up.

Tonight, Jesus simply says, **"Remain in Me."**

So if tonight your prayer is, *"Jesus... I don't want to live by my own strength anymore. I want to abide in You. I want to depend on You. I surrender my life completely to You."*

Would you quietly take that white cloth... And raise it before the Lord... Not as a sign of defeat... But as your own white flag of surrender to Jesus Christ.

(Allow the room to grow quiet. Give people time to respond.) (Pause for 30-60 seconds.)

Church... Look around this room. This isn't a room full of defeated people. This is a room full of surrendered people. And surrendered people are the ones through whom God does His greatest work.

Now, if you're able, I'd like to invite you to bring your white flag with you and come to the altar. If tonight you're trusting Christ for the very first time... Come. If tonight you're laying a burden at His feet... Come. If tonight you're choosing to stop striving and start abiding... Come. Let's surrender together. And as you come, I want to invite you to simply lay your white flag here across the altar.

Not because the cloth has any power... But because tonight you're leaving your striving here.

You're leaving your self-sufficiency here. You're leaving your fight for control here.

And you're walking away with one simple prayer: **"Jesus... I will remain in You."**

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, Thank You for giving us Your Son, the true Vine. Thank You that we are not called to live the Christian life in our own strength, but through the life of Christ within us.

Forgive us for the times we've trusted ourselves more than we've trusted You.

Teach us to remain in Christ day by day. When we are weak, remind us that Your grace is sufficient. When we are anxious, teach us to rest in Your presence. When we are tempted to strive, draw us back to abiding.

Holy Spirit, continue Your sanctifying work within us. Form the character of Christ in us so that our lives bear fruit that brings glory to the Father and blessing to the world.

May we become a church known not for our own strength, but for our dependence upon Jesus. May our families be different because we've remained in Christ. May our workplaces be different because we've remained in Christ. May our neighborhoods be different because we've remained in Christ.

And may people leave our presence saying what was said of the first disciples: **"They have been with Jesus."** We ask all of this in the powerful, life-giving, and faithful name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMISSION

Church... As you leave tonight... Don't try harder. **Abide longer.** Stay close to Jesus. Depend on Him tomorrow morning... Depend on Him in every conversation... Depend on Him in every decision... Depend on Him in every trial... Because here's what we've learned from Jesus tonight: **Lasting fruit only grows through complete dependence on Him.**

Go this week, Not trying to be a better branch. Simply staying connected to the Vine. God bless you, church.