

OVERHEARD CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS

Kelly Walter | May 4-5, 2024

Week 6: How to Bear Much Fruit

"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."

John 15:1-2 (NIV)

1. THE MAIN CHARACTERS

God is the _____

Jesus is the _____

I am a _____

The goal is to _____

2. I WILL BE _____!

Pruning is unavoidably necessary for _____

The Father has only one criteria for pruning.

How can I get the most _____ out of this branch?

Pruning _____!

Pruning Tools: Word - Grind - Struggles – Relationships

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

John 15:3 (NIV)

3. I MUST REMAIN IN CHRIST!

"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." John 15:4 (NIV)

REMAIN: It's not about _____ . It's about _____ .

"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. John 15:5-6 (NIV)

You CANNOT bear fruit unless you remain in Christ.
You WILL bear much fruit if you remain in Christ.
Apart from Christ we can do nothing.
If I do not remain in Christ, I am like a useless branch.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE REMAIN IN HIM

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

John 15:7-8 (NIV)

1. MY _____ REMAIN IN YOU

Prayer and _____ are linked together.

When I pray prayers that are answered:

God is glorified

I am bearing MUCH fruit

Other's see that I am a disciple of Jesus

2. YOU REMAIN IN MY _____

"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love."

John 15:9-10 (NIV)

How do I remain in His love?

Obey Jesus the way Jesus _____

3. MY _____ REMAINS IN YOU

"I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15:11 (NIV)

Jesus had a joy that could endure a _____.

"Am I going to settle for an _____ joy?"

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John 15:1-2 (NIV)

1. THE MAIN CHARACTERS

God is the __GARDENER__

Jesus is the __VINE__

I am a __BRANCH__

The goal is to __BEAR FRUIT__

2. I WILL BE __PRUNED__!

Pruning is unavoidably necessary for __FRUIT__

The Father has only one criteria for pruning.

How can I get the most __FRUIT__ out of this branch?

Pruning __HURTS__!

Pruning Tools: Word - Grind - Struggles – Relationships

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

John 15:3 (NIV)

3. I MUST REMAIN IN CHRIST!

"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." John 15:4 (NIV)

REMAIN: It's not about TRYING. It's about TRUSTING.

"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. John 15:5-6 (NIV)

You CANNOT bear fruit unless you remain in Christ.
You WILL bear much fruit if you remain in Christ.
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If I do not remain in Christ, I am like a useless branch.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE REMAIN IN HIM

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

John 15:7-8 (NIV)

1. MY __WORDS__ REMAIN IN YOU

Prayer and __PROMISES__ are linked together.

When I pray prayers that are answered:

God is glorified

I am bearing MUCH fruit

Other's see that I am a disciple of Jesus

2. YOU REMAIN IN MY __LOVE__

"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love."

John 15:9-10 (NIV)

How do I remain in His love?

Obey Jesus the way Jesus __OBEYS GOD__

3. MY __JOY__ REMAINS IN YOU

"I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15:11 (NIV)

Jesus had a joy that could endure a __CROSS__.

"Am I going to settle for an __INCOMPLETE__ joy?"



HOW TO BEAR MUCH FRUIT

Talk-it-Over Notes | May 4-5, 2024

REVIEW IT

We can connect with, put our faith in, many things — the government, the media, a political ideology, the universe... or the idea that there is nothing “out there” worth following. Yet Jesus teaches that He, alone, is the true vine for us to remain in. You can’t find life in anything else other than in Jesus. Like the nation of Israel before us, we can enter into this relationship with Jesus carrying expectations that are different than what God’s plans for us entail. Our role is to bear fruit: become more Christ-like. Because the only thing we bring with us to heaven is our character.

God, as the gardener, will prune us so that we bear the fruit that He wants us to bear. And while this pruning can often be unpleasant, it is a necessary part of our growing process - and in our pain is the promise of better fruit. God’s Word, our daily circumstances, the big challenges, and our relationships can all be used as tools of pruning. It is our response to the pruning that makes the difference. When we remain in Jesus, we can better trust the process and the fruits it bears - the truly lasting kind.

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. John 15:6 (NIV)

Spend some time in the Word: Read John 15.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What did you hear in this passage that resonated with you in a new way?
2. You can’t take it with you! In the end, our possessions, positions, popularity, and pleasure mean nothing. Only our character matters to God. In what areas of your life have you been cultivating the wrong crop? How can God’s pruning help you bear the right kind of fruit? As painful as pruning can be in our life, it is part of God’s plan. What steps can you take to change your response to this necessary part of your growth and fruitfulness?
3. REMAIN is a repeated concept in this passage. There is no benefit in being detached, yet we all have seasons where we seem to go our own way. Apart from Jesus, we can’t bear spiritual fruit. What have you learned in your experiences of detachment? What spiritual fruit are you enjoying as you work to intentionally remain in Him?
4. No matter what happens, we are safe in Christ. How does the truth that our joy is assured change your focus in what you seek?

ACT ON IT/PRAY ABOUT IT

When we obey Jesus the way that Jesus obeyed God, we experience the fruit of Christ-like character. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in repenting of your rejection, rebellion, and resistance of God’s ways. There is much fruit in receiving Christ, remaining in Christ, resting in Christ, and rejoicing in Christ. Make a plan to be more obedient to God’s ways, rather than your own. Yet give yourself grace and let the pruning happen as needed. Jesus had a joy that could endure the cross. Pray for the character that will help you achieve the same attitude.