

## John 15:1-5

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

[Luk 10:39-42 NASB] 39 She had a sister named Mary who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

What is it that Mary has chosen, what is the one thing?

### **MARY APPLICATION FOR ABIDING:**

**At His Feet - Feet** - a foot (of disciples listening to their teacher's instruction are said to be at his feet).

Mary shows us foremost where our spirit, our mind and our heart need to be to approach Christ. Submission & Humility.

This is scriptural:

**Isaiah 66:2 (NASB)** "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Paul understood this kind of humility:

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NASB)** 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, **so that** the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

This is not a false, disingenuous humility that Paul is describing here. This is a humility that only comes from a clear understanding...a Holy Spirit inspired understanding, of who we are biblically as it relates to Him and then it is just simply acted out.

**Philippians 2:5-8 (NASB)** 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus understood how to approach God, Paul understood it, God Himself tells us who He will turn His grace to "To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word."

### **Listening to His word**

There is probably no more important thing for a believer than to be in God's word.

**There are really two aspects to the word:**

**PROVERBS** The word or the law can show you how to practically live the best life possible on this earth. An unbeliever could put the practical principles of the Bible into place and they would live a good life.

**Romans 3:20 (NASB)** 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

**Now this is a good academic way to understand the word or the law. But this is a very sterile low level way of viewing the word.**

**PSALMS** Transforming Spiritually - The Psalms part of the word is the deeper, inner man or the intimate, heart application of the word.

**Psalms 119 is one of the most incredible passages on God's word. It is 175 verses of the importance of the word in David's life.**

**Psalms 119:20,32 (NASB)** 20 My soul is crushed with longing After Your ordinances at all times...32 I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.

**20 My soul is crushed with longing After Your ordinances at all times** - I love verse 20. David arrived in a place where he became so taken by God's word that he wrote his soul was crushed with longing after His word.

**As His word gets into your heart, this amazing, incredible transformational thing happens on the inside.**

**Hearing a deep, Holy Spirit inspired message produces this internal glow or fire in us.**

**Luke 24:25-27, 32 (NASB)** 25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures...32 They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

What if you and I could walk and have that kind of access with Him?

**WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO HAVE THAT KIND OF ACCESS.**

**Ephesians 3:11-12 (NASB)** 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

We have confident access to Him. But it gets disrupted so often. Why?

Because of the condition of our hearts:

**Jeremiah 17:9 (NASB)** 9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"

Now while this is the **nature** of our heart God changed the **characteristics** of our hearts at our

conversion:

**Ezekiel 36:26 (NASB)** 26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

I love this verse but I want us to look at couple of things. God removes the heart of stone. Stone is what our hearts are before we are believers. **A stone is cold, hard and dead.** No matter what you do to a stone it will never be anything but cold, hard and dead.

God says He will replace those hearts of stone with a heart of flesh. Flesh is **alive, soft, receptive**...but flesh if it is not taken care of it will what, it will become **hard, calloused and unreceptive.** Flesh must be taken care of. It must be consistently nourished. This is exactly what our hearts will do if they are not taken care.

We tend to **neglect the heart aspect of our relationship with Him** but scripture encourages us to not do that:

**Proverbs 4:23 (NASB)** Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it [flow] the springs of life.

**That is really the difference between Mary and Martha.** Martha was not heart focused she is works focused with Him. **Mary** was giving Him her heart first.

## **SO WHERE DOES THE WORD COME IN AS IT RELATES TO THE HEART AND ABIDING?**

The Word plays a **vital role** in keeping our **heart soft** towards Him:

**Ephesians 5:26 (NASB)** 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Washing of water with the word. What does water do? It cleans, it keeps flesh soft.

Let's dive **into how** the Word can do this:

**Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)** 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**If something is Living & active it means it is moving. If something is moving it means it also exerts and puts off energy. Did you realize that the book that you hold in your hands actually exerts a spiritual energy?**

**Look at the passage again. The bible is Living & Active:**

**Living** - zaō (zā'-ō) to live, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead) to enjoy real life.

living water, having vital power in itself and exerting the same upon the soul

**Active** - energēs (en-er-gā's) - active

**Our word for energy!**

**We study it for years and still see new things from it.**

There is a **charge** a... **Spiritual charge** associated with His Word.

**John 1:1 (NASB)** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The word is eternal.

**2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)** 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

**Theopneustos** - God breathed

And because His words are eternal and alive even when they have been put on something as sterile as paper they are alive. It is quite literally His breath.

**God also used that same breath to give man life:**

**Genesis 2:7 (NASB)** 7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

**Jesus used that same breath to give the Apostles the Holy Spirit after His resurrection:**

**John 20:20-22 (NASB)** 20 And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and \*said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

**God's breath, His word is POWERFUL. His breath gives life to us!**

**Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)** 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, - have you ever thought about the fact that there is a division between your soul and your spirit?**

**Psalm 51:6 (NASB)** - Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

**His word pierces through your joints, marrow through a division that exists between soul and spirit (the eternal part of a man) and His word touches and speaks to a place there.**

**Who does He use to speak to that part...the Holy Spirit:**

**Ephesians 3:16 (NASB)** 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

What is the Spirit saying?

**Romans 8:16 (NASB)** 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Anything that we learn from scripture will be learned by the Spirit teaching the inner man:

**1 Corinthians 2:13-14** (ESV) And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, **interpreting** spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

And as the Holy Spirit dives deep into those unknown places He plants His word there when you meditate on teaching or your own study. Sometimes there is instantaneous understanding and other times He simply plants and waits until the right moment to reveal what He wanted you to see.

As the Spirit combines with the Word something inside of us happens:

**2 Corinthians 4:16 (NASB)** 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** (NASB) For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted [it] not [as] the word of men, but [for] what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

**What happens to a man as this process works a powerful thing is unleashed:**

**John 7:38 (NASB)** 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

Innermost being in the passage in John is heart! Do you see it? Do you see what He is saying to you? As you dive into His Word The Holy Spirit speaks to that eternal part of you. Because the the Spirit can speak that eternal language. He begins to transform us from the inside out.

This happens when the Word is taught accurately and the Holy Spirit moves freely in us. When that happens our hearts respond.

**4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.**

**and I in you** - What we just spoke about is the "and I in you" portion of this verse. This also helps us to understand the second sentence in the verse:

**As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.**

The **healthiest branches** are the ones who get plenty of sunlight, they are healthy because they are **firmly attached to the vine** and they are receiving an **abundant amount of nutrients** from the vine for their growth. The word is our ability to stay connected to Him...He speaks **THROUGH** it to us.

**Our spiritual nutrients, what causes us to grow, will always come from our connection to Him first through the Word.**