

"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness (character and deeds), which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:11 KJV



Branches are rooted in the vine. Fruit is of the vine, not the branch; the proof being, if the branch is removed from the vine, it bears no fruit. Jesus said, *"As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: FOR WITHOUT ME (the Vine) YE CAN DO NOTHING."* The Scripture makes it plain that Jesus is the Word of God. *"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus)...and the Word was God...All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."* Christ is not visible, today, to men except through His Body, the Church. *"Giving thanks unto the Father...and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. He is before all things, and by him all things consist. And He is the Head of the Body, the Church."* The invisible God is present in His visible Written Word and by rooting and grounding our lives in the absolutes of God's Written Word through unceasing prayer and meditation we will bear the fruit of *"The Vine."* His fruit will be plainly manifested by every true believer. What is that fruit? *"The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* Notice the multiple attributes of the singular *"Fruit."* One or all of these will be plainly evident in the obedient believer as they mature in faith. Without daily meditation in God's Word and constant prayer, the believer's *"branch"* will bear no fruit. *"If ye abide in me, and MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."* Fruit bearing requires the vine and from the vine comes all the provision the branches need. Answered prayer astounds the wicked and applauds the Father. Fruit glorifies the vine, not the branch. What about troubles and trials? Jesus said, *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."* Fruit bearing branches are pruned of extra leaves and growths so the fruit receives all the sustenance. The *"Husbandman"* removes that which hinders fruit. Joy and happiness are different. Happiness is circumstances, while joy is God. *"The Joy of the Lord is your strength."*

The fruit of faith is on display,
When things of life cause us dismay,
There'll be no cause to turn aside,
If we in Truth secure abide. ~CGP

Today, I'll end with the words from a favorite old hymn.

More about Jesus I would know, more of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fulness see, more of His love who died for me.
More about Jesus let me learn, more of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be, showing the things of Christ to me.
More about Jesus, in His Word, holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in every line, making each faithful saying mine.
More about Jesus on His throne, riches in glory all His own;
More of His kingdom's sure increase; more of His coming, Prince of Peace...
More of His saving fulness see, more of His love who died for me. ~ Eliza E. Hewitt - 1887