

## The Secret Sauce to Bearing Fruit

John 14:6 – 15:11

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- Despite multiple warnings that Jesus would leave, the disciples didn't understand, raising the need for Jesus' teaching in John 15.
- The disciples understood Jesus' powerful metaphor: God is the vinedresser, Jesus is the vine, and His followers are the branches.
- Like branches that need to be lifted from the dirt, we need to be lifted and cleansed from our sin nature.
- As believers, we are in a constant state of refinement and pruning - moving from justification, through sanctification, to spiritual transformation.
- God's purpose, plan, and will for our lives is that we abide in Christ. We can only bear fruit when we are abiding in Jesus.
- Abiding in Jesus means being consciously aware of His presence throughout the day and requires "setting our minds on the Holy Spirit." It involves training, spending time in the Word, being with Him, and engaging in self-examination.
- Sometimes God will "prune" us, allowing pain, suffering, or difficult circumstances to force us to abide or encourage greater growth.
- What do your "daily liturgies" look like? Do they encourage healthy habits and a reliance on Christ working in and through you?
- The Holy Spirit will develop *internal* fruit in our lives while cooperating with God will produce *external* fruit.
- According to Hebrews 12, God uses three methods of pruning:
  - Rebuke: Conviction from the Holy Spirit, God's Word, a friend, or our own conscience.
  - Chasten: Often in the form of a feeling like anxiety, frustration, external pressure, and unfulfillment
  - Scourge: Direct punishment when we are living in open sin.
- As Christians, we can train ourselves to live an abiding and fruitful life by surrendering to Christ.

## GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

**Airos:** To take away or to lift up.

**Menó:** To abide, to stay, remain, or dwell in relationship.

## QUOTES

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." -C.S. Lewis

"The most important thing about you, is how you think about God." - A.W. Tozer

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Understanding Abiding:** Blake emphasizes that "abiding in Christ" appears 10 times in just 6 verses of John 15. What does it mean to you personally to "abide" in Christ? How is this different from simply believing in Him? Share practical examples of what abiding looks like in your daily life.

**The Four Stages of Fruit-Bearing:** Jesus describes four stages in a disciple's life: No Fruit, Fruit, More Fruit, and Much Fruit. Which stage do you honestly feel you're in right now, and why? What specific obstacles or "suckers" are preventing you from moving to the next stage?

**God's Pruning Process:** Read Hebrews 12:5-6. Blake outlined three levels of God's discipline: Rebuke, Chasten, and Scourge. Can you share a time when God "pruned" you through one of these methods? How did you recognize His discipline, and how did you respond? What fruit came from that season?

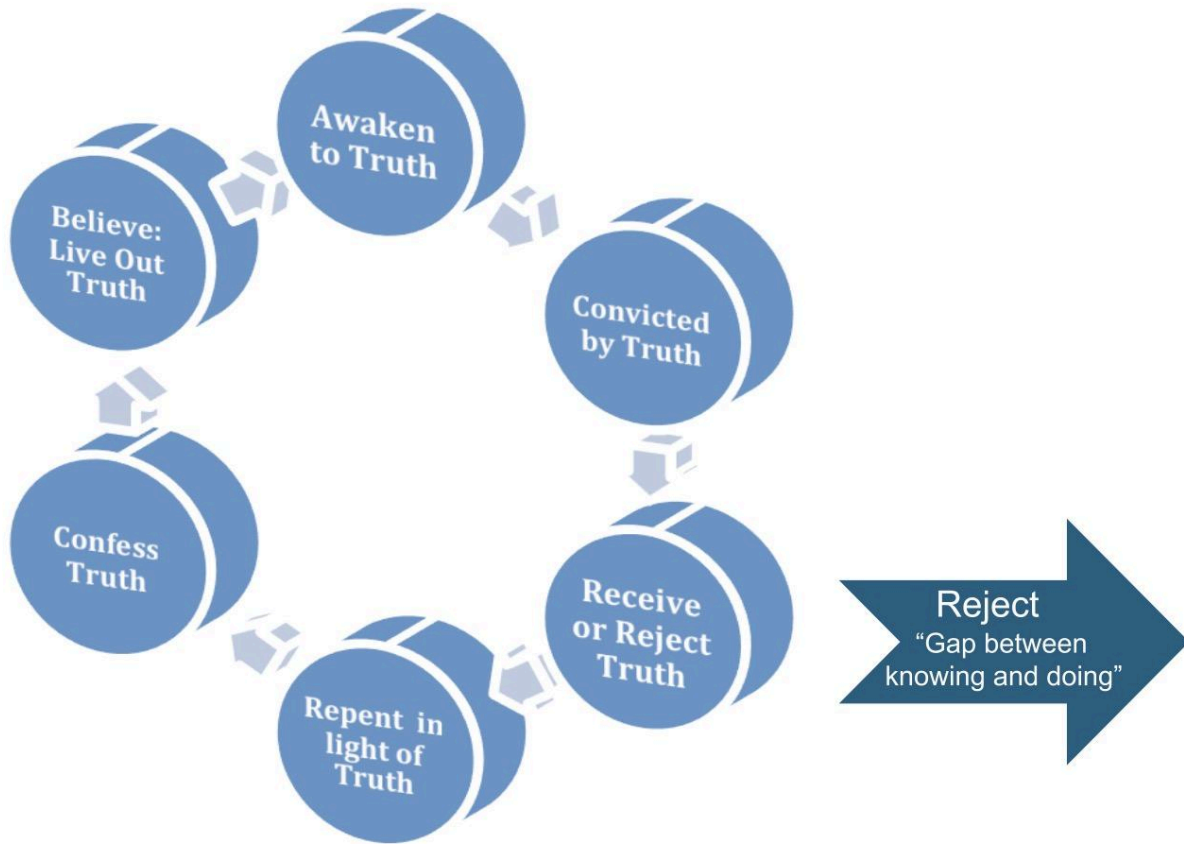
**Your Spiritual Operating System:** Romans 8:5-6 talks about "setting your mind" on either the flesh or the Spirit. What are your current "daily liturgies"—the habits and practices that train your mind? Are they training you more toward the world's way of thinking or toward abiding in Christ? What needs to change? (Suggestions: > More time absorbing God's Word. > Engaging in deeper community with another believer. > Submitting and obeying Him in a particular way; ie, growing something (Spirit's Fruit), or stopping something (World's Fruit)? [Eph. 4:22-24]. > Serving Jesus in or through his church.)

**Position vs. Condition:** Blake distinguishes between our "position" in Christ (fixed and secure) and our "condition" with Christ (requiring continuous refinement). How does understanding this difference help you in your ongoing relationship with Jesus and toward greater Christlikeness?

# The Secret Sauce

Developing a Spiritual Growth MindSet

How the Word of God and the Spirit of God work in our lives.



What is the Pattern for Building your Life?

## The Secret Sauce for Building on the Right Foundation.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Psalms 127:1

### Pursuing the Truth

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

### Awakened by the Truth

Jesus speaking to the Apostle Paul.

"I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

Acts 26:17-18

### Convicted by the Truth

Self-examination realizing I am guilty of sin, of breaking the Law:

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."

John 16:7-8

### Receive or Reject the Truth

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:11-12

### Repent in Light of the Truth

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

Mark 1:15

### Confess the Truth

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:10

### Believe – To Live Out the Truth

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

Mark 1:15