

John 15

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) In the midst of very difficult circumstances, those following Jesus are expected to not just hold their own, but to advance the Kingdom.
- 2) *15:2* God the Father prunes by removing anything that can ultimately sap our productivity, obstructing us from producing fruit. This involves cutting away things that limit righteousness.
- 3) Pruning is not to make us 'fit' for Heaven, but is designed to make us more fruitful.
- 4) God uses His Word as the pruning blade (Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 5:26).
- 5) *15:4* Staying in fellowship with Christ so He can work through us to produce fruit involves the following:
 - Staying in the Word of God
 - Confessing sin so nothing hinders our walk
 - Obeying Him/keeping His commandments
- 6) How can you know when you are abiding in Christ?
 - When you are abiding, you will produce fruit.
 - You will experience the Father's pruning so you will bear more fruit.
 - You will have your prayers answered.
 - You will experience joy.
- 7) *15:5* "Fruit" is Christ-like character.
- 8) *15:7* Presupposes 3 conditions:
 1. Prayer must be offered in His name (consistent with His will).
 2. The promise is to those who abide.

3. Christ's words abide in the person making the request.

9) *15:7* Why is there so little power in prayer? Because many do not abide in Christ and Christ's words do not abide in them.

10) *15:11* The ultimate blessing is full & complete Joy.

11) Abiding must be cultivated. It requires studying God's Word, worship, service, and prayer.

DEFINITIONS

Abide—verb \ə-'bīd\; to bear

a) to endure without yielding

b) to bear patiently; to accept without objection

Menō (men'-o)—primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state) :-
abide, endure, remain, to stand