

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 67

*Produce the Abundant Fruit of an Obedient Life in Christ
God Will Keep You on Your Way*



Beautiful - Mature - Merciful - Loving - Happy
Love - Joy - Peace - Patience - Kindness - Goodness
- Faithfulness - Gentleness - Self-Control
Love One Another As I Have Loved You

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. ***(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***



Lesson

If you are a believer in Christ....**NEVER FORGET:**

- That you have been regenerated...born again...spiritually.
- That you have been placed in union with Christ....Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- That you have a RELATIONSHIP with God the Father, Son and Spirit.
- That Christ lives in you...PERMANENTLY!
- That the Father and the Spirit also indwell you PERMANENTLY!
- That you have that new and eternal life from God implanted in you.
- That the WORD of God is alive and powerful.
- That the Spirit has worked in you your spiritual gift.



You remember from our previous lesson that you are a **branch** (Church Age believer) in the **Vine** (Jesus) and that the **Vinedresser** (God the Father) prunes those branches...us...to produce even better fruit. And you remember that the pruning means suffering for those of us who produce fruit because we choose to live in the plan of God, to keep our eyes on Jesus, and do the work we must do for Him after salvation in a way like Christ.

While attached to the Vine you may have been going along just fine producing fruit in each season of fruit producing but God wants you to produce even more and better fruit...juicier fruit, plumper fruit, much better than what you were producing before. So then in the winter season...



You begin to go through a difficult time in your life. Yeah you have to endure it and it hurts a lot BUT you exercise your faith-rest and you believe, know, and let God bring you through this hard time because you trust Him and His promises not to send you too much! Then He brings you through the suffering as He promised He would and then you can breath this tremendous SIGH of RELIEF...He did it...He got me through it. Your faith and trust in God will ALWAYS pay off and get you through.

Now you can look forward to Him doing all kinds of things. You got through that, you watch, you waited, now you believe, know, and you let Him because you trust Him. That's the Faith-rest drill, by the way.

And then something will happen...guaranteed, according to the Word of God...this WILL Happen...you will get endurance, and eventually spiritual maturity, completeness, strength to endure even more.

What's our job? TRUST HIM. Continue to have faith in Him. Live in Him. Believe and obey Him. And the spiritual growth happens, it is not equal to anything else...nothing like it...you will be amazed and fantastically happy.

John 15:1 "I am the true Vine (Jesus), and My Father is the Vinedresser (God the Father). (2) Every branch (believer) in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away (divine discipline); and every branch that bears fruit (believer living in the plan of God), He prunes it (suffering for blessing) so that it may bear more fruit (even better than before)."

To produce better fruit the branch must grow strong and the New Testament has a lot to say about the growth that occurs AFTER God prunes you. After the winter season and after the pruning, which is suffering, affliction, trial, tribulation, or testing, the Word of God provides many descriptions of the fantastic production, fruitfulness, fullness of growth that follows when we believe what God's Word has to say about the pruning and its results. Here's one passage in **James 1:2-4**. "Consider it all **joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials (suffering for blessing), (3) knowing that the testing (suffering for blessing) of your faith produces endurance. (4) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete (spiritually), lacking in nothing."**



The New Testament gives us several passages that describe this step by step procedure of how God the Holy Spirit matures us spiritually or how the Holy Spirit matures the fruit on the branch. Here you have in **James** the trials...your faith tested...then endurance through the trials...then spiritual growth, which in time gets you to spiritual maturity and completeness, lacking nothing. God supplies everything for us in the testing, through the testing and then pours out His blessings after the testing. On top of it we grow up in Christ to spiritual maturity so we can be of enormous use to Him and show Him to others. So you see this suffering for spiritual maturity doesn't only happen once. It happens throughout your spiritual life IF you are living in the Vine.



That Greek word for "produces" is the key, because it shows this production, this one thing growing out of another nature of our spiritual life...God producing in us Christ-likeness every time we pass the suffering test...progress leading to the next stage of spiritual growth until we are complete in Christ...the reality of life in Christ the Vine.

Here in **James 1:3** it shows that God the Holy Spirit is producing the result and we benefit from what He is doing in us. The Greek word shows that this is an ongoing part of our spiritual life and that it is an ongoing reality in the length of our spiritual life that our Father has planned for each one of us...that is those of us who obey Christ and want to be like Him and serve Him.

Here are more passages that show this same quality and in fact several use this same Greek words: **2 Cor 4:16-17** "But and if, as is the case, our outward self is progressively decaying (our bodies), yet our inward self (new nature) is being changed into a new kind of life (made for the new spiritual existence that became ours at the moment of our salvation, and which helps us to constantly be obedient to the image of the Lord Jesus) day by day. (17) For our momentary light burden of suffering is preparing for us more an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (18) while we think not of the things that are seen (in the world) but of the things which are not seen (spiritual things), for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Listen kids, eye has not seen nor has ear heard the THINGS which are ours in Christ. You can't even imagine what the fantastic blessings are that you get from Christ. We are the fullness of Christ in this world and will gain from the great things awaiting us in the next. Jesus gives ABUNDANTLY!!!

Mark 4:26-29 "And He was saying, 'The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the soil; (27) and he goes to sleep at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows; how this happens, he himself doesn't know. (28) The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the ear, then the mature grain in the ear. (29) But when the crop is ripe, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.'" We are being built up into a superstructure of the Lord...God's building, God's tree! From seed to tree! That is how we grow spiritually. God does it day by day from our living in His plan with blessing and suffering.



Rom 5:1-5 "Therefore, having been justified (imputed or credited +R) by faith, we have peace (reconciliation) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) And not only this, but we also rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering brings about determination; (4) and determination, proven character (integrity); and proven character, hope (confidence); (5) and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Verses one and two show the strong and unbreakable foundation for the building up that occurs in verses 3-5. We are justified (made perfect) (+R) in Christ. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ who gave us our so great salvation and the foundation from which we can stand strong and be so happy in knowing and having confidence in the glory of God to come. We are on solid foundation with God through Christ!

Then as we grow up spiritually we add to the building. Here is the plan worked out by the Holy Spirit in our souls and lives: suffering, determination, proven character and hope or confidence. The Holy Spirit changes suffering by stages, into hope or confidence that God is building in you all that it takes to succeed in serving others and Christ. And the best part is you'll be happy and content in the process and in the end result. This glorifies Christ. This is a hope that doesn't disappoint because of the love of God that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Himself a HUGE and WONDERFUL gift.

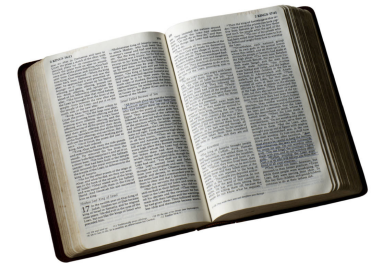


And the key to it all is KNOWING that this is going on in the invisible spiritual eternal place, yet going on NOW in time as well...grace blessings and peace beyond your imagination! The Bible tells us this is all about MULTIPLICATION...30, 60, a hundred fold! In **2 Peter 1:1-3** the Bible tells us this. "To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness (+R) of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: (2) Grace and peace **be multiplied** to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us EVERYTHING pertaining to life and godliness (spirituality), **through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence." Taking in God's Word daily through your life builds you up and blessings are added so you can do the job you were left here to do, which is to glorify Christ.



John 15:1-2 "I am the true Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. (2) Every branch (believer) in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away (divine discipline); and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it (suffering for blessing) **so that it may bear more fruit.**" There is another particular thing about the Vinedresser: He is totally focused on making sure the vine produces. He is dedicated to the overall health and production of the vine. Why? Because the branches are His production of fruit. What fruit? Getting the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel message about Jesus to unbelievers; teaching new believers all about Christ;

helping fellow believers who are suffering so they can see the love of Jesus in us and desire to know Him; and lots more. This glorifies Jesus and our Heavenly Father is going about His business of glorifying His Son the Lord Jesus Christ...that is His heart! Christ is His Beloved Son. We receive incredible blessing because we are IN HIM. That news HAS TO GET OUT. **Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...**"



If something or someone is threatening the production of the Vine, He will do whatever it takes to stop that including allowing us to get hurt now so we end up producing more later! Go through difficulty and suffering now so we come out better for it afterward. We are sons and daughters, and our Father is going to discipline us so we produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

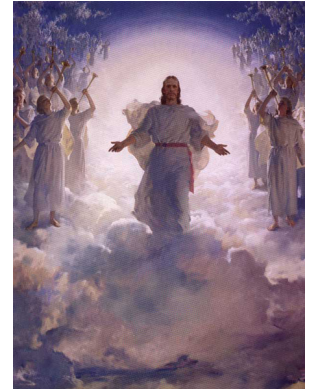


Remember in our key verse where it says "every branch in Me that **DOES NOT** bear fruit, He takes away..." Well that's for believers who don't care to produce fruit (divine good) or who are ignorant of the Word of God and are not living in Christ or His plan. God doesn't allow this for very long and He does whatever it takes to change their minds. So if you are receiving divine discipline, here is some advice from God in **2 Cor 4:16-17**. "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (17) For momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison..."

SOMETHING HAPPENS to us when we endure suffering. REMEMBER what you learned about the Lord's suffering in our last lesson? Look and carefully read this verse in **Heb 5:8-10** again. "Although He was a Son (of GOD!!!), He learned OBEDIENCE from the things which He suffered. (9) And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him (believe in Him) the source of eternal salvation, (10) being chosen by God as a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek." Our Lord Jesus Christ was changed in His humanity by suffering, because right here it says He learned things and obeyed. Like I hope you are doing by learning His Word.

His change, this learning made Him in his humanity into this beautiful, mature, merciful, faithful, sinless Man who has what it takes to be our permanent High Priest and go to the cross for us. Heb 2:10 "For it was fitting for Him, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Heb 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brothers in every way so that He might become a merciful and faithful high Priest in the service of God, to make propitiation (satisfy God the Father) for the sins of the people. (18) For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted." And please understand, as we go forward on our journey in the plan God has for us that Christ went on ahead of us. He was tempted and suffered in every way. That should give you lots of hope and assurance that He will bring you through your own suffering and temptations by means of the filling of the Spirit and the Word of God in your souls and of course HIS GRACE.

Col 1:17-18 "He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) He is also Head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." So too, as we move along on our journey, and we go through a winter season of suffering, and we are pruned for blessing, realize that as we go on in God's plan, we are being changed, transformed to be like Christ...that is real growth. 1 Peter 5:10-11 "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. (11) To Him be authority (power) forever and ever. Amen."



He who began a good work in you will complete it to the day of Christ Jesus. In other words, God will see us through to spiritual maturity every step of the way if we choose this path. Rom 8:28-30 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (and obey that call). (29) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined (has a plan for you life) to become obedient to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers; (30) and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified (+R); and these whom He justified, He also glorified (with Christ)."

When we get to the end of our journey and we see the glorified Christ in Heaven, we will also see something else...that we have been made to be LIKE HIM in His perfect humanity. 1 John 3:2-3 "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is (glorified). (3) And everyone who hopes in Him purifies Himself as He (Jesus) is pure."



2 Cor 4:16-17 "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man (our body) is decaying, yet our inner man (human spirit...new nature) is being renewed day by day. 1(7) For momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison..." The eternal weight of glory is not so much a trophy that we will get but it is the fullness of being made into the image and likeness of Christ. Col 3:3-4 "For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." Church Age believers will be just like Him in His glory!!!!

Rom 8:16-18 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. (18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (in Heaven)." And the Bible says that glory for the Christian is none other than becoming like Christ. Unfortunately not all believers will want to suffer with Him. They just don't understand that the suffering makes us more like Him and He will bring us through it and will not give us more than we can handle. 1 Cor 10:13 "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." 2 Cor 3:18 "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." We will come to know God the way Jesus does. In fact the Bible actually defines eternal life this way in John 17:1-3. "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, (2) even as You gave Him

authority over all flesh (humans), that to all (believers) whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. (3) **"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."**

So start to use the only standard to measure your progress in life: **Am I growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ?**

It may be winter, it may be summer. You may be producing fruit or you may be under the pruning knife of the Vinedresser. No matter what things you're going through...**are YOU growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ?** That is the object of your sufferings or trials, discipline, blessings, journeys, and the peculiar and wonderful things that happen along the way in God's plan for your life.



To grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ...THIS is eternal life! This is the point of it all, and this, this grace, this knowledge, will come with you when you kiss your earthly life goodbye and head for heaven. This eternal meaning, this eternal weight, this glory, it is ONE THING and ONE THING ONLY: **the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** This is the reason why we are living in a great contest (the Angelic Conflict), a great struggle here on earth. There is only one fully, truly, completely and eternal heroic mission in this life and that is to give your life for growth in the grace

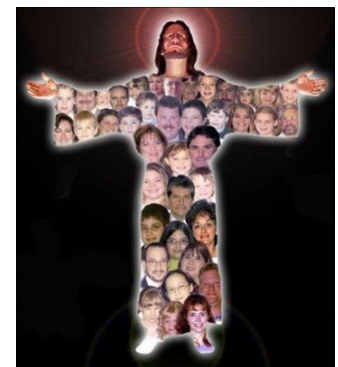
and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With growth in yourself and growth in others there will be great conflict. **2 Tim 3:12 "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Luke 21:17 "All men will hate you because of me (Jesus)." John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble, but take courage; I have overcome the world."**

The church is always under attack to the degree it takes part in growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The more you live in the plan of God and obey Jesus the more you are attacked. Are you worried about that? You shouldn't be. If Jesus can do the hardest thing for you by saving you, He can bring you triumphantly through the attacks from the world, the flesh and the devil. **2 Peter 3:17-18 "You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of dishonest men and fall from your own commitment (to Jesus), (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."**

The Church is the Body and Christ is the Head, and the Church is the fullness of Christ in this world but the Church is under attack because it is God's vineyard for this great production of fruit (divine good), the fullness of the crop in the vineyard. What is the fruit? It is the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ in action in your life, and applying that truth and knowledge by serving Christ through serving others.

When our Father prunes our lives, He is helping to shape our destiny in Christ. Our personal sense of destiny is not about us though, it is about God. God created us for His pleasure. We get lots of blessings from this. So we can either use our time to be pre-occupied with our problems, ourselves, and the world system we live in on earth, or we can use our time to prepare for eternity.



When we discover our personal destiny, a wonderful thing happens to us. Our lives become simple. Our personal sense of destiny becomes the standard we use to evaluate what activities are important and what are not. And discovering our spiritual gift is a big part of this. God has a unique calling on your life.

Your Life in the Vine

Your life in the Vine describes your meaning, your purpose, and who you really are. Each plant is an individual and requires a different approach when being pruned. In other words, God knows just how to help you along in His plan for your life as long as you make daily decisions to remain in the Vine. **John 15:1-2 "I am the true Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. (2) Every branch (believer) in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away (discipline); and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it (suffering for blessing) so that it may bear more fruit."** It is by going through trials and difficulties, by being pruned,

being cut back, redirected, shaped, and humbled through discipline, that we find ourselves living the life that God has prepared for us. We will discover that it was the frustration, the worry, the suffering, the adversity, the sorrow, the disappointment, the trial, these were the very things that make us spiritual...with eyes on Jesus...this pruning will be what God uses to do it.

We owe so much of our spiritual growth to the suffering the Lord allowed us to go through and with the grace He gave us to be able to take it. Light suffering, which is for a little while works for us to the max by producing that eternal weight of GLORY!



If you're still not quite understanding what all this means, let's look at what Jesus tells us in **John 15:4**. "Live in Me, and I in you. As the branch can't bear fruit by itself unless it lives in the Vine, so neither can you unless you live in Me." This is saying that God must increase in our lives and we must decrease. God actually takes us into situations and relationships that finally cause us to face up to the fact that we are simply failures as Christians without His grace and plan! He has to be bigger than us and we have to rely on Him to do the work He wants us to do. Our helplessness and our nothingness, our total unacceptability in ourselves becomes very clear when we suffer. We need God when we suffer. We focus on Him when we suffer. We need Him to get us through it. It's only after we have been made quiet and polished up

and disciplined that we learn to obey His commands. It makes us want to live in Him and live the spiritual life He designed just for you.

You know exactly what I mean especially after you have been punished by mom or dad for doing something wrong. It hurts but it causes you to straighten up afterward, right? Hopefully it does!!! I know it did that for me. Of course we will make bad choices again and go backwards again and then we need more discipline but eventually we get the picture. God is no different with us than our parents are. He cares so much about us succeeding in HIS plan that He acts on our behalf and prunes us. He loves us like the parents He gave us love us and part of that love is discipline. Parents are our authority and so is God. We grow our character through discipline and suffering...we become like Christ and we obey.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ reminds us about something in **John 14:20**. "In that day you will know that I am in My Father (Christ is God), and you in Me (Baptism of the Holy Spirit...union with Christ), and I in you (indwelling of Christ)." These things are TRUE...FACTS from the Word of God. This is our security...our reassurance. We studied this not too long ago about what the Holy Spirit does for us at salvation. Jesus is saying here that we are in union with Him and that the believer is indwelt by the Lord Jesus Christ at the moment of salvation. God does this for the believer. These are just two of the many things that happen at salvation. This is here to help you realize you are safe in Christ and then for you to see the difference between **John 14:20** where God does the work and in **John 15:4** where the believer is commanded to do something.



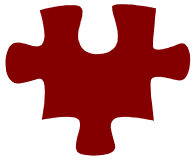
Here in **John 15:4** we are COMMANDED to live in Christ, and we are COMMANDED to have Christ live in us. Don't get confused here. It will be explained. Look at it again. "Live in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it lives in the Vine, so neither can you unless you live in Me." So this verse IS DIFFERENT than what Jesus said in **John 14:20**. In **John 15:4**, it is experiential sanctification (what you do everyday) and this means that Jesus wants us to make daily choices to live in His plan...in the Vine...so the Vine can nourish you to produce the fruit. Christ HAS to tell us those things so that we can develop from spiritual babies to spiritual maturity in the plan of God.



In **John 14:20** Jesus is talking about our position in Him. That NEVER changes. That tells us God is faithful and God does that at the moment we believe in His Son. Then we are in Christ forever. But our CONDITION does change. The fact that "live" is a command in **John 15:4** means that it is something we can do AFTER salvation and NOT a reference to our positional sanctification...our position in Christ...being in union with Him. We are never commanded to be in union with Christ. We are commanded to live in Him (make daily decisions to grow in the Vine...study His Word, believe His Word and apply His Word and love and serve others...produce fruit.) So Jesus commands this "branch" in **John 15:4** to "Live in Me, and I in you." This is a VERY IMPORTANT verse.

Let's keep going and read the next verse where Jesus will tell us more! **John 15:5** "I am the Vine, you are the branches (believers); he who lives in Me (experiential sanctification) and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." Picture the vine and branches...here is the fruit that believers produce as a result of living in the Vine...obeying Jesus' command.

Also, God does something for the believer who produces fruit. **John 15:7** "If you live in Me, and My Words live in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." See how much He loves us. He wants us to come to Him in prayer and He will answer us! That's because you are living in the Vine and depend on the Vine for your nourishment. This makes the Vinedresser very pleased! His pruning has worked.



Now here's a puzzle for you. There's another lesson to learn in this verse in **John 15:4**. And we have one piece of the puzzle. When Jesus says, "Live in Me, and I in you," the second phrase "I in you" is fulfilled when HIS WORDS live in us!! "I in you" means my Words in you. How do His words live in us? By experiential sanctification...that is you obeying Jesus command to "live in Me"...living in the Vine...consistently taking in the Word of God everyday and using it to produce fruit. By making it a habit to study the Bible daily...His Words will then live in you and they will be circulating in your soul ready to use...produce fruit. If you let the Word of God richly live in you, you'll be producing fruit like crazy.

Our Lord wants His Words...His thinking to be in us. Remember the Bible is the mind of Christ and He wants it circulating in your soul. We see it in the very interesting word "live". It is the Greek verb *meno* and it means:

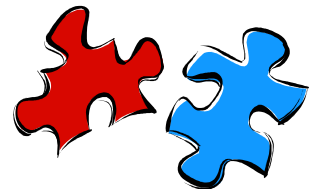
- To stay in the place that has been given to you.
- To remain in a state or relationship freely given to you.
- Not to depart, not to leave, but to remain.
- It means to stay in the house, to live.
- It means to stand against opposition; to hold out; to stand fast.

The opposite meaning is to go away and to hesitate and to flee.

In a legal sense, it means to remain true to the agreement!

And when you produce fruit, Jesus tells us that this happens: **John 15:8** "My Father is glorified by this...that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples (followers). (9) Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; live in My love."

Now here is the other piece of the puzzle. When our Lord says, "LIVE in Me, and I in you", the first sentence is fulfilled when we live in HIS LOVE! So the complete description, with the seeds and the fruit is "LIVE in My love, and my Words in you."



The seed is the Word of God.

The fruit is the love of God.



And that is exactly what we learn in **1 Pet 1:22-25**. "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (23) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable (seed...Word of God), through the living and abiding Word of God (in your souls); (24) for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, (25) but the Word of the Lord remains forever.' And this Word is the good news (the Gospel) that was preached to you."

How do we live in God's love? **John 15:10** "If you keep My commandments, you will live in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love." By keeping His commandments. What commandments are these in verse 10? It is the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control...Christ-likeness!!! Our GOAL!! **John 15:1** "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends." And here we have the answer to the question, what commandments? The command that you love one another, just as Christ has loved you. This all results from living in the Vine!!! And how has Jesus loved us? HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US!!!!

Kids, PLEASE LIVE IN CHRIST!!!!!!!!!!!!

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on January 4, 2012
Lighthouse Bible Church

