



You Can Do Nothing Without Me

“The Power of Christ In Me”

John 15:1-8

Introduction

John 14 is best understood in two parts:

In the last days remember:

Words of Comfort vv.1-7

Words of Counsel vv.8-31

Today we will examine **John 15**

Scripture

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

4 Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

8 My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.” CSB

Quote Of The Day

“We can have no power from Christ unless we live in a persuasion that we have no power of our own.” — John Owen

In **John 15** we learn Jesus gives us life changing power.

Jesus gives us power to:

Produce Fruit

Love Others

Endure Persecution

Receive the Comforter

Without the power of God we can do nothing!

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, **because you can do nothing without me.**” CSB

Romans 7:18 “For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it.” CSB

Acts 17:24-28 “The God who made the world and everything in it—He is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands. 25 Neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. 26 From one man He has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. 27 He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. 28 For in Him we live and move and have our being . . .” CSB

I learned the principle of “**I can do nothing without Christ**” through a Personal and agonizing experience.

Illustration of vertigo attack in Georgia.

Without the grace and power of Jesus we are helpless and can do nothing.

However, God's Word says in **Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Today we are going to discover:

Jesus gives us power to:

Produce Fruit vv.1-8

The lesson Jesus teaches in **John 15:1-8** is commonly referred to as a "**mashal**."

A **mashal** is a proverb or parable that conveys wisdom and moral lessons through the use of figurative language. Jesus often used mashals in His teaching to reveal both the truth of Scripture and the application of Scripture to our life.

The central truth of this **mashal** is found in v.8 "My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples." CSB

From the teaching of Jesus in **John 15:1-8** we discover Four Lessons about Producing Fruit.

Four Lessons about Producing Fruit:

Producing Fruit is the Expected Outcome of our Life vv.1-3

Producing Fruit Requires Power we do not Possess vv.4-5

Producing Fruit is the Standard for Judgment and Blessing vv.6-7

Producing Fruit Proves we are Followers of Jesus v.8

Four Lessons we learn about Producing Fruit:

1. Producing Fruit is the Expected Outcome of our Life vv.1-3

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.” CSB

In this lesson about Producing Fruit Jesus uses the analogy of a garden to communicate the importance of producing fruit.

Producing Fruit is a Priority

Why do gardens exist? Gardens exist to Produce Fruit.

We know Jesus is talking about a garden because:

There is a Vine— The Vine is Jesus

There is a Gardener— The Gardener is the Father and He observes the branches to see which ones are producing fruit and the branches who are not.

There are Branches on the vine— The Branches are people living on the earth.

There are two types of branches:

Branches that Produce Fruit

Branches that Do Not Produce Fruit

The Righteous Produce Spiritual Fruit

The Unrighteous Do Not Produce Spiritual Fruit

What does Jesus mean when He teaches about Producing Fruit?

Producing Fruit refers to the works in our life that glorify God.

Works that glorify God:

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-25 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” CSB

Works that glorify God:

Righteous Motives that result in Good Works

Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” CSB

Motives Matter:

We do good works to glorify God

Or

We do good works to impress others and glorify ourselves

Colossians 3:16-17 “Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” CSB

Works that glorify God:

Gospel Conversations with the purpose of leading people to Jesus

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” CSB

A Gospel Conversation is— the act of engaging people in casual conversations that lead to sharing the “Good News” of Jesus on some level.

Sharing the Good News about Jesus means some people plant seeds of Good News, some people water seeds of Good News, some people cultivate seeds of Good News and some people harvest fruit from the seeds of Good News. Whether it is planting, watering, cultivating or harvesting fruit from the seeds of Good News it is all part of the process of “Gospel Conversations.”

WE WILL NEVER PRODUCE OR PICK FRUIT IF WE DO NOT PLANT SEEDS!

Works that glorify God:

Spiritual Development that equips and empowers people to live for Christ.

Colossians 1:9-10 “For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven’t stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,” CSB

Four Lessons about Producing Fruit:

2. Producing Fruit Requires Power we do not Possess vv.4-5

“Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. **The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.**” CSB

Our fruit without His Power leads to nothing of lasting value.

Four Lessons about Producing Fruit:

3. Producing Fruit is the Standard for Judgment and Blessing vv.6-7

“If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.” CSB

The branches represent two types of people living on the earth:

1. The Righteous— Those who have committed their life to follow Christ, they are flourishing branches and Produce Spiritual Fruit.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 “For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each one’s work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; **the fire (judgment) will test the quality of each one’s work. 14 If anyone’s work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.**” CSB

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” CSB

2. The Unrighteous— Those who have not committed their life to follow Christ, they are withered branches and DO NOT Produce Spiritual Fruit.

Matthew 7:15-27 “Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. 16 You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So you’ll recognize them by their fruit. 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ 23 Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers! 24 Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.” CSB

Four Lessons about Producing Fruit:

4. Producing Fruit Proves we are Followers of Jesus v.8

“My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.” CSB

I John 2:3-6 “This is how we know that we know Him: if we keep His commands. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and yet doesn’t keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly in Him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in Him: 6 The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.” CSB

James 2:14-20 “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,” but you don’t give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder. 20 Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?” CSB

Producing Spiritual Fruit is seen in the character and behavior of those who follow Christ.

People discern what type of tree we are by examining the fruit we produce.

Seven Habits That Lead To Producing Spiritual Fruit In Our Life

Seven habits that produce spiritual fruit:

1. Read and Meditate on Scripture

Psalms 119:9-16 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word. 10 I have sought you with all my heart; don’t let me wander from your commands. 11 I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you. 12 LORD, may you be blessed; teach me your statutes. 13 With my lips I proclaim all the judgments from your mouth. 14 I rejoice in the way revealed by your decrees as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on your precepts and think about your ways. 16 I will delight in your statutes; **I will not forget your word.**” CSB

Seven habits that produce spiritual fruit:

2. Consistent Times of Prayer

Romans 12:12 “Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.” CSB

Ephesians 6:18 “Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.” CSB

Consistent times of prayer help maintain focus on God, His Word and His Will. When we pray God helps us live with faith and confidence that comes from God.

Seven habits that produce spiritual fruit:

3. Engage in Authentic Worship

I Chronicles 16:23-25 “Let the whole earth sing to the LORD. Proclaim his salvation from day to day. 24 Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples. 25 For the LORD is great and highly praised; he is feared above all gods.” CSB

It is good to have personal times of authentic worship.

It is good to have corporate times of authentic worship.

It is good to praise God for He alone is worthy.

When we praise and worship God we are reminded He is the Creator and we are that which has been created.

Seven habits that produce spiritual fruit:

4. Fellowship with Other Followers of Christ

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.” CSB

Seven habits that produce spiritual fruit:

5. Practice Obedience

Deuteronomy 6:1-3 “This is the command—the statutes and ordinances—the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. 2 Do this so that you may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life. 3 **Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly,** because the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.” CSB

God blesses our obedience to His Word and to His Will.

Seven habits that produce spiritual fruit:

6. Serve Others

1 Peter 4:9-11 “Be hospitable to one another without complaining. 10 Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God’s words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.” CSB

Seven habits that produce spiritual fruit:

7. Gospel Conversations

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” CSB

