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We continue stedfastly in prayer, and in the
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

Welcome to Bible Study and Prayer

Wednesday 15 March, 2017 A.D.
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Wednesday 17 Adar, 5777

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- **Let us praise the Lord in song.**

Hymn #33

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart;
In-a my heart, In-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart.

NEXT

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2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart;

In-a my heart, In-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart.

NEXT

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3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in-a my heart;

In-a my heart, In-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in-a my heart.

NEXT

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4. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart;

In-a my heart, In-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart.

END

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QUESTIONS

- Who is the vine?
- Who is the husbandman?
- Who is the branch?
- What becomes of withered branches?
- What becomes of branches that bear fruit?
- Can a branch bear fruit of itself?
- What feeds the branch?

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- **Join in an Intimate Prayer of Petition.**
- Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Luke 11: 2
- We come boldly unto the throne of grace, to obtain mercy, and find grace to help fulfill divine calling. Hebrews 4: 16
- Full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Acts 6: 5

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- preaching, reproof, rebuking, and exhorting with all longsuffering and doctrine. II Timothy 4: 2
- give us utterance to make known the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6: 19
- We ask You God, remove any spirit of stupor, so our eyes should see, and our ears should hear. Romans 11: 8
- Might the Lord give us understanding in all things. II Timothy 2: 7

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- May the word of the Lord have course, and be glorified. II Thessalonians 3: 1
- May whatsoever we do in word or deed, all be in the name of Adhonai Jesus, giving thanks to Elohim and the Father by Him. Colossians 3: 17
- Asking all in Jesus name. John 14: 14
- Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as in heaven. Matthew 6: 10
- For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Matthew 6: 13 Amen.

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- **Text:** John 15: 1-8 ASV

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh it away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he cleanseth it, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already ye are clean because of the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; so neither can ye, except ye abide in me.

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5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; and so shall ye be my disciples.

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- Who is the vine?

Jesus said ¹ I am the true vine. John 15: 1

- Who is the husbandman?

Jesus said ¹ my Father is the husbandman.

John 15: 1

- Who is the branch?

Jesus said ⁵ you are the branches. John 15: 5

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- What becomes of withered branches?

Jesus said ⁶ they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. John 15: 6

- What becomes of branches that bear fruit?

Jesus said ² every branch that beareth fruit, he cleanseth it, that it may bear more fruit. John 15: 2

- Can a branch bear fruit of itself?

Jesus said ⁴ the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine ⁵ apart from me you can do nothing. John 15: 4 & 5

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- What feeds the branch?

Jesus said 7 my words abide in you. John 15: 7

- What is someone who bears fruit?

Jesus said 7 you that bear much fruit shall be my disciples. John 15: 7

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- When Jesus drew His picture of the vine He knew what He was talking about. The vine was grown all over Palestine. It is a plant that needs a great deal of attention if the best fruit is to be gotten out of it. Grown commonly on terraces, the ground has to be clean. Sometimes trained on trellises; sometimes allowed to creep over the ground upheld by forked stakes; sometimes it grew round the doors of the cottages; but wherever it grew careful preparation of the soil was essential.

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- Slips are set in the ground at least twelve feet apart. Drastic pruning is necessary for luxuriant growth. A young vine was not allowed to fruit for the first three years. Each year it was cut back that it might develop and conserve its life and energy. When mature, it is pruned in December or January. It bears two kinds of branches; one bears fruit, the other non-fruit bearing. Non-fruit bearing branches are mercilessly pruned back, so they will drain away none of the strength of the plant. The vine will never produce a crop

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without drastic pruning. Jesus knew that.

- The wood of the vine has a characteristic that it is good for nothing. It is too soft to use for any purpose. At certain times of the year, the people must bring wood to the Temple for altar fires for sacrifices. The wood of the vine must not be brought. It was useless for that purpose. The only thing that could be done with the pruned wood was to make a bonfire to destroy it. Jesus knew that, and adds it to His picture.

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- Jesus says His followers are like that. Some of them are lovely fruit bearing branches of Himself; others are useless because they bear no fruit. Who was Jesus thinking of when He spoke of the fruitless branches?
- Two answers.
- First, He was thinking of the Jews. They were branches of God's vine. Prophet after prophet had drawn that picture of them. They refused to listen to Him, withered useless branches.

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- Second, He was thinking of Christians. Those whose Christianity consisted of profession without practice, words without deeds. He was thinking of Christians who heard His message and who accepted it and who fell away, who abandoned their faith, and who had become traitors to the Master whom they once pledged to serve.
- A fruitless branch is on its way to destruction !

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- Consider this testimony.

A family of four; father, mother, son of the birth right, and younger son. The father and mother were confessed and obedient believers joined in holy matrimony, blessed by a minister of the Word. Two sons were wanted and glorified after the father and mother were made one in Spirit. The father was king and priest to the family. The mother was a help meet and taught the sons of her faith. The son of the birth right had made confession and been obedient in baptism. It

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took the younger brother longer to make his confession. When the Holy Spirit quickened the younger brother's heart, the brothers were grown and living on their own. The son of the birth right had been married and was a father. The younger son lived alone. An invitation to celebrate communion and worship with the new brother in Christ was extended to the oldest brother. Upon receiving invitation the son of the birth right replied; I've dropped half a grand to take my children to the circus this Sunday.

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- Is the son of the birth right bearing fruit?
- Did the son of the birth right honor his father and mother?
- Did the son of the birth right forsake Christ for \$500.00?
- Did the son of the birth right set a righteous example for his children?
- Is the son of the birth right guilty of practicing Christianity with words and without deeds?
- Has the son become a withered branch?

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- What course of action should brethren in this circumstance take?
- The right way to handle this bitter experience can be expressed in one word; PRAY.
- Find God quickly. Commit the whole matter to Him. Tell Him this is Your business, God. What are you going to do about it? Place the burden where it belongs. ¹ God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46: 1 ASV

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- Three ways to become a useless branch.

Refuse to listen to Jesus at all.

We can listen, rendering service unsupported by deeds.

We can accept Him as Master and in the face of difficulty abandon Him.

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- One way to be fruitful.
- Jesus' secret of life was His contact with God, the Father. Again and again He withdrew into a solitary place to meet God. Jesus was always abiding in God. It must be so with us and Jesus. We must keep in contact with Him. We can not do that unless we deliberately take steps to do it.
- There must be no day when we never think of Jesus and feel His presence. Abide in Jesus, and Jesus will abide in you.

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BENEDICTION

In the day of the righteous judgment of God; who will render to every man according to his works, may we be found patient in well-doing, seeking His glory, honor, and incorruption, for eternal life. Peace to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For there is no respect of persons with God.

Amen. Romans 2: 5-11 ASV