



WE GROW STRONGER TOGETHER

May 03 & 04, 2025

Colossians 1:17 (NIV)

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Ephesians 2:19b (LB)

... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

John 15:1-8 (NLT)

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

How Can I Connect to the Vine? (Jesus is the vine)

- _____ in Jesus' death and resurrection.
- _____ committed to the church (the body of Christ).

Colossians 3:15 (CEV)

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful.

Psalms 133:1 (TEV)

How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!

Hebrews 10:24-25 (MSG)

He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

4 BENEFITS OF BEING CONNECTED TO JESUS AND HIS CHURCH

1

My _____ is strengthened as my faith grows stronger.

John 15:5a (NLT)

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

2

My _____ improves and brings me peace.

John 15:5b (NLT)

Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.

Three Ways God Speaks to Us:

- _____
The Bible is always the ultimate authority and the conclusive way God has spoken to us.
- _____
God uses circumstances to speak to us constantly.
- _____
Remember that prayer is a two-way street. We only talk to God but He speaks to us through the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (TPT)

If you bow low in God's awesome presence, he will eventually exalt you as you leave the timing in his hands. Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you.

4 STEPS TO PRAY AND RECEIVE PEACE

- _____ a quiet place to be alone with God.

Matthew 6:6 (MSG)

Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

- _____ your mind and steady your breathing.

Psalms 37:7-9 (TPT)

Quiet your heart in his presence and wait patiently for Yahweh. And don't think for a moment that the wicked, in their prosperity, are better off than you. Stay away from anger and revenge. Keep envy far from you, for it only leads you into lies. For one day the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the Lord will inherit the land.

- _____ with three things I'm grateful to God for.

Psalms 100:4-5 (NIV)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

- _____ more for _____ than for myself.

1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT)

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

3

My _____ of God's pruning isn't seen as punishment, but as preparation for eternity.

John 15:6 (NLT)

Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

2 Peter 1:5-8 (TPT)

So devote yourselves to lavishly supplementing your faith with goodness, and to goodness add understanding, and to understanding add the strength of self-control, and to self-control add patient endurance, and to patient endurance add godliness, and to godliness add mercy toward your brothers and sisters, and to mercy toward others add unending love. Since these virtues are already planted deep within, and you possess them in abundant supply, they will keep you from being inactive or fruitless in your pursuit of knowing Jesus Christ more intimately.

1 Corinthians 11:30 (NLT)

That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

John 15:7-8 (TPT)

But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done. When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father!

Psalms 1:1-3 (TPT)

What delight comes to the one who follows God's ways! He won't walk in step with the wicked, nor share the sinner's way, nor be found sitting in the scorner's seat. His passion is to remain true to the Word of "I AM," meditating day and night on the true revelation of light. He will be standing firm like a flourishing tree planted by God's design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of life. He is never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, ever prosperous.

The 5 Most Important Spiritual Habits I Can Develop:

- _____ – Individual and corporate.
- _____ – Connect with other believers in small groups and church communities.
- _____ – Caring for others grows our faith and love.
- _____ – Being generous with my treasure and talents.
- _____ – Get in the Word daily and it will get in you.

Ephesians 4:12-16 (TPT)

And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ. These grace ministries will function until we all attain oneness into the faith, until we all experience the fullness of what it means to know the Son of God, and finally we become one into a perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed into the abundance of Christ. And then our immaturity will end! And we will not be easily shaken by trouble, nor led astray by novel teachings or by the false doctrines of deceivers who teach clever lies. But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church. For his "body" has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.

Ephesians 5:2 (TPT)

And continue to walk surrendered to the extravagant love of Christ, for he surrendered his life as a sacrifice for us. His great love for us was pleasing to God, like an aroma of adoration—a sweet healing fragrance.



WE GROW STRONGER TOGETHER

May 03 & 04, 2025

Colossians 1:17 (NIV)

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Ephesians 2:19b (LB)

... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

John 15:1-8 (NLT)

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

How Can I Connect to the Vine? (Jesus is the vine)

- **Believe in Jesus' death and resurrection.**
- **Become committed to the church (the body of Christ).**

Colossians 3:15 (CEV)

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful.

Psalms 133:1 (TEV)

How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!

Hebrews 10:24-25 (MSG)

He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

4 BENEFITS OF BEING CONNECTED TO JESUS AND HIS CHURCH

1

My life is strengthened as my faith grows stronger.

John 15:5a (NLT)

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches.

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

2

My prayer life improves and brings me peace.

John 15:5b (NLT)

Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.

Three Ways God Speaks to Us:

- **Bible**

The Bible is always the ultimate authority and the conclusive way God has spoken to us.

- **Circumstances**

God uses circumstances to speak to us constantly.

- **Prayer**

Remember that prayer is a two-way street. We only talk to God but He speaks to us through the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (TPT)

If you bow low in God's awesome presence, he will eventually exalt you as you leave the timing in his hands. Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you.

4 STEPS TO PRAY AND RECEIVE PEACE

- **Find a quiet place to be alone with God.**

Matthew 6:6 (MSG)

Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

- **Calm your mind and steady your breathing.**

Psalms 37:7-9 (TPT)

Quiet your heart in his presence and wait patiently for Yahweh. And don't think for a moment that the wicked, in their prosperity, are better off than you. Stay away from anger and revenge. Keep envy far from you, for it only leads you into lies. For one day the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the Lord will inherit the land.

- **Start with three things I'm grateful to God for.**

Psalms 100:4-5 (NIV)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

- **Pray more for others than for myself.**

1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT)

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

3

My perspective of God's pruning isn't seen as punishment, but as preparation for eternity.

John 15:6 (NLT)

Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

2 Peter 1:5-8 (TPT)

So devote yourselves to lavishly supplementing your faith with goodness, and to goodness add understanding, and to understanding add the strength of self-control, and to self-control add patient endurance, and to patient endurance add godliness, and to godliness add mercy toward your brothers and sisters, and to mercy toward others add unending love. Since these virtues are already planted deep within, and you possess them in abundant supply, they will keep you from being inactive or fruitless in your pursuit of knowing Jesus Christ more intimately.

1 Corinthians 11:30 (NLT)

That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

John 15:7-8 (TPT)

But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done. When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father!

Psalm 1:1-3 (TPT)

What delight comes to the one who follows God's ways! He won't walk in step with the wicked, nor share the sinner's way, nor be found sitting in the scorner's seat. His passion is to remain true to the Word of "I AM," meditating day and night on the true revelation of light. He will be standing firm like a flourishing tree planted by God's design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of life. He is never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, ever prosperous.

The 5 Most Important Spiritual Habits I Can Develop:

- **Worship** – Individual and corporate.
- **Fellowship** – Connect with other believers in small groups and church communities.
- **Serving** – Caring for others grows our faith and love.
- **Giving** – Being generous with my treasure and talents.
- **Daily Devotions** – Get in the Word daily and it will get in you.

Ephesians 4:12-16 (TPT)

And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ. These grace ministries will function until we all attain oneness into the faith, until we all experience the fullness of what it means to know the Son of God, and finally we become one into a perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed into the abundance of Christ. And then our immaturity will end! And we will not be easily shaken by trouble, nor led astray by novel teachings or by the false doctrines of deceivers who teach clever lies. But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church. For his "body" has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.

Ephesians 5:2 (TPT)

And continue to walk surrendered to the extravagant love of Christ, for he surrendered his life as a sacrifice for us. His great love for us was pleasing to God, like an aroma of adoration—a sweet healing fragrance.