

He Said—What?
"Empowered By Jesus"
March 23 & 24, 2024

Bible Reading:

- John 15:5 NLT: "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."
- 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."
- John 15:7 NLT: "But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!"

Observation Questions:

1. What does the metaphor of the vine and branches represent in John 15:5?
2. In John 15:6, what are the consequences of not remaining in Jesus as described by the vine and branches imagery?
3. According to John 15:7, what promise is given to those who remain in Jesus and have His words remain in them?

Interpretation Questions:

1. How does the relationship between the vine and branches illustrate our dependence on Jesus for spiritual life and growth?
2. Based on Jesus' metaphor, what might be the implications of being a branch that does not remain in the vine?
3. In what ways does the promise of answered prayer in John 15:7 reflect the alignment of our desires with God's will?

Application Questions:

1. Reflect on your daily practices; what are some specific ways to cultivate a deeper connection with Jesus to ensure you remain in Him?
2. What areas of your life may need "pruning" to produce more fruit? What steps will you take this week to address these areas?
3. Think of a decision you need to make soon. How can you ensure that it aligns with God's will and not just your own desires?
4. What is one specific action you can take this week to demonstrate the fruit of your relationship with Jesus to others?
5. Consider your prayer life. What is one thing you will ask God for this week that aligns with His will and purposes for your life?

Bonus Content for Daily Devotions: "Empowered By Jesus"

Day 1: Active Commitment to Christ's Path

Abiding in Jesus is an active, ongoing process that requires daily commitment. It is about aligning every aspect of one's life with His teachings and example. This alignment is not passive; it is a conscious choice to walk in His footsteps, to let His words and actions guide one's own. It is through this continual commitment that one finds true spiritual empowerment and purpose.

James 4:8 - "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Reflection: How can you actively seek to align your daily actions and decisions with the teachings of Jesus today?

Day 2: Depth of Relationship with Christ

The depth of one's relationship with Jesus is critical and should be reflected in the authenticity of one's faith. A superficial connection is not enough; the relationship must be nurtured and deepened through prayer, study, and meditation. The evidence of this relationship is visible in the fruits of one's life, which are borne from a genuine connection with Christ.

1 John 2:5-6 - "But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

Reflection: In what ways can you deepen your relationship with Jesus to ensure it is genuine and not just superficial?

Day 3: Confidence in Divine Alignment

When desires are aligned with God's will, there is a profound sense of security and confidence in prayer. This alignment is not about God granting every wish, but about shaping one's desires to reflect what is in God's heart. As this alignment occurs, prayers become more about participating in God's plan than about seeking personal gain.

1 John 5:14 - "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

Reflection: What desires do you need to surrender to God to align your will with His, and how can you actively trust Him with the outcomes?

Day 4: Dependence on Christ for Empowerment

True empowerment is not self-generated; it comes from a life-giving connection with Jesus. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, individuals cannot produce spiritual vitality from their own resources. Dependence on Christ is essential for empowerment that leads to a life of impact and purpose.

Bonus Content for Daily Devotions: "Empowered By Jesus"

Philippians 2:13 - "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

Reflection: What are some ways you have tried to empower yourself apart from Christ, and how can you shift to rely on His strength instead?

Day 5: Living for God's Glory

The ultimate measure of one's empowerment is the glory it brings to God. Living a life that bears much fruit is a testament to one's identity as a disciple of Christ. This is not confined to religious activities but is evident in every aspect of life, demonstrating the transformative presence of God within.

Matthew 5:16 - "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Reflection: How can you ensure that your daily life, in all its aspects, brings glory to God and reflects your identity as His disciple?