

*"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5*

Without the vine the branch is useless except as fire fodder. The branch is primarily for producing fruit. We immediately think of winning souls and reproducing other saints as "fruit-bearing," but it is not. Think with me for a moment: What is the "fruit" of the Spirit? If the Father, Son, And Spirit are One, then the Vine is also the Spirit and its fruit is Love, Joy, Peace, and etc. How do we reproduce? Remember? The seed is in the fruit. The "seed" is the Word of God and the more fruit we bear the more "seed" is produced. The more seed that we produce, the more reproduction there is. God's Word is, was, and



always will be the method, mechanism, and momentum of reproducing saints. We are simply the bearers of the "seeded fruit." We are the "branches." The more we trust and obey, the more fruit we will bear. The closer we fellowship with Christ, the more like Him we will become. Like Moses down from the Mount, we will radiate the beauty of Holiness for all to see and bring God's Word to the people. Bear, preach, the Gospel. The "seed," "to every creature." We must bear fruit with word and deed. As with any analogy, you can only take the natural comparisons so far before they stop being analogous. The point of the illustration is not reproduction, but dependence. The life-giving sap of the vine is the initiator and sustainer of every branch and its function. The fruit is the glory of the Vine. The branches simply function as display units. The Vine and its fruit are the important parts. Unproductive branches are pruned from off the Vine, and branches that produce are pruned back to encourage more fruit. Your trials are a necessary part of "fruit-bearing," and by extension, seed bearing. It is the essence of the Vine that sustains its branches and produces fruit. The seed is the essence of the Vine encapsulated, waiting for "good ground" where it may spring forth anew. Every sumptuous cluster and sturdy branch has its origin in the "seed." The branch cannot claim independence from the Vine any more than the thumb can claim independence from the body. It is only useful if it is attached and functioning properly. We must cling to the Vine for dear life!

The branch detached is of no good,  
Its only use is for firewood,  
We, to the Vine, must firmly cling,  
To bear much fruit before the KING. ~CGP

Walking in the Spirit, obeying the Truth by faith, is living off the fruit sustaining sap of the True Vine.

*"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8*