

For Without Me Ye Can Do Nothing John 15 Verse 5

Joh 15:1 ¶ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through 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; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 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. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

"**for without me ye can do nothing.**" How often do we look at and use this statement in a negative manner? How often have we misinterpreted this statement, and used it as an excuse to not do what we ought to do?

Think about the context of these verses, which will give us the true meaning of the statement. In context: this statement is talking about being fruitful children of God. It is telling us that it is our duty to bring glory and honor to the name of God through good works. It is speaking to us of abiding in Christ, which is an admonition to us, to be always bearing about Jesus in our bodies, and living in a way to exemplify that we are children of God.

Jesus is telling us that he is all in all to God's people. Jesus is telling us; if our lives of discipleship are unfruitful, we will be removed from the vine. What does Jesus tell us happens to unfruitful branches? They are cut off and then cast into the fire. What a lesson to urge us to be fruitful in our lives as children of God. What a powerful message to urge us to be disciples of Jesus and evangelist in the kingdom of God on earth. The first place we are to evangelize is our own selves. If we are inconsistent in our study of the word of God, if we are not in constant church attendance, if we are not in constant prayer for the Lord to make us to be fruitful, then we have failed to demonstrate that we are abiding in Christ. If we are not doing all we can to grow in the knowledge of God and his word of truth; how do we expect to be of use to further the kingdom of God on earth? How do we expect to live fruitful lives in Christ? How do we expect that our lives, of discipleship to Christ, will reach out to others bring forth fruit?

Jesus is telling us that if we bring forth fruit, God will purge us that we may bring forth more fruit. What does Jesus mean by this purging? Jesus is telling us: the more we study the word of God, and fill our hearts and minds with thoughts of Christ and things divine; the more time we devote in prayer to God, in the name of Jesus; the more time we spend doing those things which bring glory to God; the more of our inherited sin nature God will rebuke and hold in submission, which will cause the light of Christ to shine brightly through us and glorify God in all that we say and do.

Jesus goes on to tell us: abiding in him connects us to the source of the life of the branches, and it is the sap of the vine makes the branches fruitful. This is why he tells us "**for without me ye can do nothing.**" This is not to be a discouragement to us; but rather, a reminder of how we bear the fruits of the Spirit and abide in Christ. It is a thorn in the flesh to draw us closer to God.

Jesus is not telling us that we are helpless to do anything at all. Jesus is only saying that without me you cannot bear fruit, nor can you abide in the vine. Wherefore, we should see that "**for without me ye can do nothing**" is to be a guiding truth to set us on the pathway of fruitfulness and faithfulness in Christ.

Consider: if you are not a child of God, your desires, and the goals of your life, are not to bear the fruits of the Spirit which magnify the name of God. If you are a child of God, who is abiding in Christ; you should desire to bear the fruits of the Spirit; you should desire to pray to God for the sap of the vine to run freely in your life, and thereby you may bring forth fruit in abundance.

This is one of the reasons we assemble together in worship services; wherein, we build one another up, as seen in: **Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."** We point out here that singing is part of worshipping God. Assembling together is not just attending church meetings. It means that every time two or more Christians are together, they should be building one another up in Christ. How often have I failed in this one aspect of abiding in Christ and being fruitful in Christ. This is why we are to live the Christian life to the fullest, keeping ourselves unspotted from the world. It is why God told us in: **Mt 5:16**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Being a child of God, when we have forgotten, or turned away from God, for a little while; we should still have the desire to bear fruit. How do we know if this is true? What happened in the new birth? You were made a new creature in Christ. Now you have Christ in you, in the form of the Holy Spirit presence. Since Christ must be true to himself, he may allow us to stray away for a while; but we have eternal life in Christ dwelling in us; therefore, Jesus will stir up the desire for us to be fruitful once again. This happens by the Holy Spirit afflicting our consciences until we abandon our own ways and turn again to God, in repentance and prayer, begging for the renewed vigor of the sap of the vine to be restored to us. This is God pruning the fruitful branches vine.

Understand: the desire to bear fruits of the Spirit is evidence that you are one of the branches of the true vine. Understand: the statement "**for without me ye can do nothing**" is a reminder that our works, done in the power of the inherited flesh nature, can bear no fruit that is good, nor abide in the vine. Why? God has told us in: **Re 20:12-15; 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**" This scripture makes it very plain: our self-works are not bearing fruit in Christ, nor are they abiding in Christ, and they can only take us to eternal doom.

"**for without me ye can do nothing**." These words are a reminder to us of what Moses said to God in: **Ex 33:15; 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. 14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth. 17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.**" Moses, in these verses, gives us the prophetic picture of what our lives in Christ are to be the kingdom of God on earth. Moses understood the statement "**for without me ye can do nothing**."

Wherefore, we look at the words of Christ: "**for without me ye can do nothing**." And we rejoice, when we do not want to do anything, unless we do it in the power of Jesus Christ; and we understand that the words of Jesus "**for without me ye can do nothing**." are truly a reminder to us to trust fully, in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to live fruitful lives as children of God. We thank you, King Jesus, that you are the source of the fruitful lives we exhibit, and that you are the anchor. which causes us to abide in the vine, which are the things that bring glory and honor of the name of our God. Hallelujah! Amen!

Sing "**I Surrender All**" Hymn 502 #12 Old School Hymnal

1 All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;

I will ever love and trust in Him, In His presence daily live.

Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

2 All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow;

Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me Jesus, take me now.

Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

3 All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Saviour, wholly thine;

Let me fell they Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou are mine.

Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

4 All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;

Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessings fall on me.

Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.