

## Remain in Him

### Today's Reading

John 15:1-27

Did you notice the corn stalks last fall? They grew tall! Some of them were eight, nine, even ten feet tall! But, you probably know that farmers aren't ultimately after tall stalks. For them, it is all about yield. Even though a stalk may be nine feet tall, if it has no corn on it, it is ultimately useless.

Jesus didn't live in Wayne County where corn stalks abound. He spoke these words from Israel where he was possibly surrounded by a small vineyard. Although He focused on grapes and not on corn, the principle is the same. God as the divine farmer desires to see a yield...He wants to see fruit produced in your life. The kind of spiritual fruit indicated here is the ultimate measure and purpose of spiritual growth. It manifests itself in a number of ways including increased worship, growing freedom from ungodly practices, clearer display of character qualities like the fruit of the Spirit, genuine love expressed in service for other believers, and passionate outreach to those without

Christ. The Father has called you to that kind of fruitfulness. In fact, He is glorified by those kinds of results emanating from your relationship to Him.

But while the fruit is important, it is essential to note that your fruitfulness in life will be the result of intentionally developing your connection to Jesus. In fact, there is a direct relationship between your fruitfulness and the degree to which you "remain in" Him. Somehow, your fruitfulness is proportionate to your relationship to the Word of God.

As you dream yourself into the months ahead and all the fruit you hope to see, ask the question, "What will I do daily/weekly/monthly in order to foster my relationship with Jesus?" How will you ensure that you have meaningful interaction with the Savior through the Word of God and prayer?