

Psalm 133

Especially as we are nearing the end of the age, our altars should be as vibrant as when we come together. There should be greater and much more put in our individual altars. In the book of revelations, there was a word given to the church, but the promise was to the individual who over comes.

Experiencing God in our daily living.

Often, we separate out spiritual lives from our careers or families, etc. However, this ought not to be. Everything we do is to be spiritual living. They all ought to be under the umbrella of the spiritual living. God's creation reveals attributes and Characters of Himself, *Romans 1:20*. It also to a measure reveals how God relates to us. This is why you will notice in many of Jesus' parables, He made reference to nature. David as well knew this truth, when he said in Psalm 19, the heavens declare the glory of the Lord. The natural world is a pointer of the Spiritual world. The spiritual realm is all around us, if we would exercise our spiritual senses, we will sense God. We are born of the Spirit and hence these members were given to us to sense God. Every single day, we are to exercise our spiritual senses. Embrace nature and look for truths of God in them.

John 15

John 15:1 - I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

From the first three verses, we see three vital parts that we need to pay attention to: Christ (The true vine), Our Father (the vine dresser) and the branches (Us, the church). Jesus Christ painting this picture to us was wanting to pass a spiritual truth. If we see a vine, we see that a branch is a part of the vine, an extension that causes the fruit to be expressed. The branch is one with the vine, it is not apart from it. Seeing that we are the branches, we need to understand that we are not apart from Christ. We are one with God. This is important because the flow of nutrients move downward up. It flows from the roots, through the vine into the branches. This means that the source of life as the branch is thighed to its oneness with the vine.

Without the branches, no fruit can be brought forth. Also, if a branch is not connected to the vine, there is no flow of nutrients for the branch to bring fruit. Hence, there is that interdependence. The moment the branch is separated from the vine, there will be no life that will come forth from the branch, regardless of what you do. Your only flow and sustenance of life is being one and connected with Christ. You must always remind yourself that whatsoever is true of Christ is also true of you. That is the mystery of Jesus's life while He was on earth. He said I can of my own self do nothing. It ties to everything we do, in every area of our life, not just spiritual things. Job said He performeth that which He assigned for me to do. *Job 23:14*. Even your secular work is not a coincidence. When you have this mindset, you will notice that whatever you do will prosper. This is because you are bringing a God awareness into what you are doing. You need to remind yourself, in everything that you are doing that you are connected to the vine.

John 15:2 - 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.

The verse says 'every branch IN ME' that does not bear fruit. Meaning, this branch is connected to Christ. The truth of it says every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He raises it up. Why? The branch is still in Him. The Greek word for "taketh away" is airo, which means to lift up. There are times that we do not bring out fruits in our lives, as long as we are in Him, we are not to fear because He will never forsake us. In the natural, you know a true friend when you are in your weakest moment, because he would stand by you. We are to never believe that God will forsake us. This causes us to make the mistake of using our strength. In your place of weakness, immediately turn to Him and receive His life. Never feel that God has left you, because in that place, the enemy comes and tries to condemn us. Every branch that beareth fruits, He purges it, so that it will bring more fruits. Many times, we could look at our lives and see the nature of forgiveness or peace or love in areas of our lives. There is a tendency that we will feel relaxed, but God purges still purges the branch. Why? This purging is to clean it, so that nothing can suck out the life. If you look at a branch, there could be another branch that will grow out of it. This causes a splitting of the branch and splits the flow of life. This causes the fruit in both branches to be smaller and less nutritious. This speaks of distractions, via cares of this life. Hence, God speaks to you and cuts off things that are taking away from the focus on the flow of life. It could be a thing as good as ministry. When ministry is taking much of your time that you are not having time for the Lord Himself, that needs to be pruned away. This is what happened to the church in Ephesus. Anything that distracts you from

your one to one fellowship, including family, friends, career, etc, God will take away. We can see that Jesus understood this when his parents came to call Him, *Matthew 12:46-50*. We need to ask for Wisdom to deal with the circumstances that takes away our time with the Lord.

How does He clean this branch? *John 15:3 - Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

He says, you are clean through the Word I have spoken to you. Hence, always seek to hear the word of God. Many do not have the experience of Hearing the word of God within them. Many hear from reading the word or a word of prophecy, etc. However, the primary way of hearing the word of God is hearing God within you. Much of the time, it is us only speaking: Praying in tongues or in understanding. However, rarely do we do that with the attitude of listening. How many times, do you wait to hear Him speak. You may wait and you hear nothing. It might be an awareness, but as you continue on with your day, He speaks. This is because the Lord speaks in multiple ways and multiple times. *Hebrews 1:1-3*. This Word strengthens you. It is those who have taken the time to wait to hear the word of God that have the word to speak in the day of trouble. We see this in *Matthew 4* when Jesus was tempted.

John 15:4 - 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.

This verse shows the principle of life. Abide in Me and I in you. What does it mean to abide in Him? In verse 7, we see that God abides in you through His words. The word abide means to stay. When you feel a prompt in you regarding a verse, stay there; that is where life is. Those who will reign with Christ are those who bring much fruit. This is how God is glorified, *John 15:8*, when we bring forth fruits. It is your responsibility to stay on God's word. This is not just hearing and confessing, but you need to take deliberate time to wait on the word of God. **It is not just when you are inspired, you must be intentional.** Even if it means timing yourself, 15 mins to pray in tongues or 30 mins to think on a scripture.

John 15:5-6 - 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.

Without Christ we can do nothing. Without Christ we are nothing. This is why in verse 6, we see that if any man does not abide in Christ, He is cast out. May this never happen to you. When you abide in Him, you will bear fruit. People are attracted to you. People are attracted to the fruits of a tree. How will someone know what an apple tree is, if they never saw apple on it.

Sometimes it might seem we are not bearing fruit in an area of our lives. Jesus said do not judge by appearance. Imagine that a vine tree does not bring forth fruits. A man who is not a farmer, may come in the winter and if he does not understand, he would say cut off the tree. The tree is not dead. Although it looks withered, there is a flow of life and water in it. How do we relate this to you appearance? Do not judge by the appearances that you see in your life presently. Never judge by your weakness, you must see yourself in the finished work of Christ. Keep your eyes focused on whom He has predestined you to be. Be patient and keep doing what you are doing. This helps us to see our self and our brethren the way that Christ sees us. Remove your eyes from the seeming weakness and look at Jesus. Jesus when He was healing, he never saw a blind person as blind, He saw that this person was fearfully and wonderfully made and so He would call forth the eyes, *Psalm 139;14*. There is a realm in God where you see everything as perfect. When we agree with this, that is when God's Will will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Therefore God said to John, come up hither. When He came up to the realm, he saw every creature magnifying the name of the Lord.

In summary, as the branches, you must be connected to Christ. It must be crystalized in you that you are one with God. We need this truth crystallised in us.

John 15:5 KJV

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.