

# Feb/March 2002

## Spiritual Coffee

In this month's message I want to begin by sharing scripture in the Gospel of John, Chapter 15. In this chapter it speaks about God's relationship with his children (that's us). It also gives insight about how the world sees its relationship with God and with His people. To get a better revelation on this please read the whole chapter, but I am going to only focus on a few scriptures from this chapter.

*John 15:4-5 KJV: 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. 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.*

Here we see God telling us that if we *abide* in him he will abide in us, and once we do that we will be fruitful or productive for the kingdom of God. So basically we need to keep "hooked-up" with God, or the vine as in this set of scriptures. We cannot expect to be productive for God if we don't stay connected to God through prayer, worship, and study.

Now here it says in John that the branch cannot bear fruit of itself. Many Christians try to do this very thing that it says in John we can't. Many Christians don't stay connected to God, or the vine, and still try in their own strength, power, or self-will get what they think they need to get done in their lives. At times they do these things, in their own mind, for God. Some of these things may not seem all that carnal on the outside. For instance starting a church program or group that is outside of God's will, outside of the vine will never produce the same fruit as if it was God's plan.

In verse 5 of John it goes further to say that if you abide in him and him in you, you will bring forth much fruit, not some fruit but much fruit. If you will stay hooked up to God, stay connected to the vine you will be abundantly productive for God.

*John 15:6 Amplified Version: If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken-off] branch, and withers; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, and they are burned.*

*John 15:7 KJV: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

I like verse 6 of this chapter better out of the Amplified Version. Here it illustrates what happens to anyone not connected to the vine. I don't know about you but I don't want to be a broken off branch to the Vine, to God. I prefer the alternative in verse 7 where it says that if you abide in Him and his word abides in you, you can ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. Did I read that correctly? If I abide in God, stay connected to God, allow His word to dwell in me I can ask what I want and it will done? Wow what an awesome God!

The beginning of John 15 mostly speaks of abiding in God and letting Him abide in you. It also speaks of the consequences of not abiding and benefits of staying connected to God.

You may be asking yourself “how do I get connected to God?” Well let’s look at a couple of scriptures that tell us how to get close to God.

*Psalms 145:18 KJV: The LORD is nigh unto all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.*

*James 4:8 KJV: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw high to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

So as you can see in these couple scriptures you simply have to call out to God, drawing close to him and he will hear you and draw close to you. But notice the end of both of these scriptures. Psalms 145:18 ends with calling upon him in truth, James 4:8 ends with many more criteria, purifying your hearts and not being double minded. You can’t call out to God to bless the car you shouldn’t have bought. You can’t call out to God to bless your finances if you spent it on what you wanted and not what God wanted. You can’t call out to God for anything that is of your own work, your own self-will, and is fleshy expecting a blessing because that isn’t calling upon him in truth and that is not purifying your heart. You have to get real with God, he knows what you need, He’s your father, a heavenly father willing and able to meet every need in your life. All you have to do is go to him humbly and truthfully and he will begin to point you in the right direction.

I want to end this message in Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 4 is another chapter that is full of insight and revelation if you take the time to read it in full.

*Hebrews 4:11-12 KJV: Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Here in Hebrews we see we have to labor to rest in God’s presence, and you can’t rest in that when in unbelief. It also speaks of the word of God being a discerner of the thought and intents of the heart. God already knows, by his word, what your thinking and what your intentions are, but you have to do God’s work, God’s business so you can rightfully rest in his presence.

Like I have said in previous messages you have a free will and can choose whatever path you want. The Bible clearly tells us what is down each path, either blessing or cursing, depending which road you decide to take. The responsibility falls on you how you lay your life out, what roads to go down, what decisions to make. God sent the Holy Spirit as a comforter to help us on our journey through life. Are you willing to listen to Him or do it your own way? Hebrews 4:16 says *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* So plan to take some time getting personal and getting real with God so you to can come boldly to the throne of Grace in your time of need.