

SURVIVING vs. THRIVING

August 15-16, 2009

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener."

John chapter 15, verse 1 (824)

➤ I need to be constantly reminded that true life can only come through Jesus.

"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' No one can come to the Father except through me. "

John chapter 14, verse 6 (823)

➤ My heavenly Father never takes a break from me!

- Not when I sin.
- Not when I am doing great.
- Not when I take a break from Him.
- Not ever!

"He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more."

John chapter 15, verse 2 (824)

➤ God likes fruit! - *"fruit", "more fruit," "much fruit"*

"But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians chapter 5, verses 22-23 (893)

"This is the story of the LORD'S people. They are the vineyard of the LORD Almighty. Israel and Judah are his pleasant garden. He expected them to yield a crop of justice, but instead He found bloodshed. He expected to find righteousness, but instead He heard cries of oppression."

Isaiah chapter 5 verse 7 (520)

➤ God is the only one who knows the true condition of my heart.

...For some who are fruitless, He lifts them up because He knows their heart.

...For some who are fruitless, He cuts them off because He knows their heart.

...Your life is in the safest of hands when you give it to God.

➤ Where in my life has God been working... and have I been cooperating?

Do I confess sin? Be Honest!

Do I share struggles? Be Real!

Do I pursue God's truth? Be a reader of His Word!

Do I pray for his power in my life? Be dependent on God!

"You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you."

John chapter 15, verses 3 (824)

➤ **Fruit happens through my commitment to the Word of God.**

"How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find You, don't let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Psalms chapter 119, verses 9-11 (468)

➤ **Sin cannot co-exist with fruit.**

➤ **Many books can inform me, but the Bible is the only book that will transform me.**

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12 (922)

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

John chapter 15, verses 4-5 (824)

➤ **Wandering from Jesus is a fruitless journey.**

➤ **I can work real hard and produce no fruit.**

...A lot of activity for God may not produce any fruit.

...Staying close to God and his Word will produce all kinds of fruit.

"But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!"

John chapter 15, verse 7 (824)

➤ **Fight sin and all you will do is survive; but cling to Jesus and you will thrive!**

"I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"

John chapter 15, verse 11 (824)

Next Week- *"Adopted Into God's Family."*