

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 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. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 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. 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. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."*

John 15:1-8 KJV

Jesus uses the example of the grapevine to speak of our relationship to him. He is the vine from which we draw nourishment, and we are the branches and as such are to bear fruit.

Most grapevines need to be tended so they are guided to grow like a canopy so the grapes will be hanging in

bunches and can be harvested efficiently and produces plentiful.

Grapevines won't produce much for several years. That means the vine grower is doing so as a work of faith. He must wait for the fruit to start producing. Those early years are devoted to staking and tending the vines, knowing that when they begin, they will yield abundantly, season after season since grapevines are perennials.

In our relationship with God, we are led by God to live productive lives and to produce fruit for God's kingdom. It is an act of faith, as the grapevine of our lives as formed.

