

“THE HELPER - Part IV” (John 15:1-17)

Pastor Mark Johnson

May 18, 2025

INTRO: God has given us a personal Helper who wants to Help us be and do all God wants us to be and do – the Holy Spirit.

JOHN 15: ABIDING IN JESUS & BEARING MUCH FRUIT.

A. Bearing Much Fruit (vv. 1-8).

1. Jesus is the true vine – the source of all fruit & life.
2. God the Father is the gardener.
3. We are the branches (v. 5).
 - a. God removes the branches that don't bear fruit (Matt. 3:10; 7:16-20). Any unfruitful branches?
 - b. God prunes that branches that bears fruit so that they will bear more fruit.
4. What is the fruit?
 - a. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
 - b. The fruit of ministry (Rom. 1:13; Col. 1:5-6).
 - c. It's better to have branches pruned than removed!
 - d. Yield to the pruning process!
 - e. God's Word cleans/prunes (v. 3; Eph. 5:25-27).
5. We bear fruit to the degree we abide in Jesus (4-5).

“abide” – to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy), be present; also translated: *continue, dwell, endure, remain, stand, tarry*.
6. Those who don't abide in Christ are removed (v. 6).
7. One of the fruits of abiding in Christ is the fruit of answered prayer (vv. 7, 16; 14:13-14; 16:23-24, 26).
8. Jesus' disciples bear much fruit (v. 8).

B. Abiding in Jesus' Love (vv. 9-17).

1. Jesus loves us the same way the Father loved Him.
 - a. Jesus exhorts us to abide in His love (v. 9).
2. We abide in Jesus' love by obeying Him (v. 10; 14:15, 21, 23-24, 31).
3. Jesus wants His fullness of joy to remain in us (v. 11).
 - a. His joy becomes our joy!
4. Jesus commands us to love one another as He has loved us (v. 12).
 - a. Love is measured more by action than by emotion – it's a choice!
5. The greatest love is laying down one's life for a friend (v. 13).
6. Jesus calls us His friends if we obey Him (v. 14).
7. From servant to friend identity (v. 15).
8. Jesus chose us and appointed us to bear much lasting fruit. (v. 16; Lk. 6:12-13).
 - a. Again, answered prayer is part of the fruit.
9. Jesus again commands us to love one another (vv. 17, 12; 1Cor. 13:4-8).

CONCLUSION: Let's pursue and receive all the help the Helper wants to bring us!