

John 15 - 9 times he says to remain (ABIDE). We just remain and bear fruit.

JOHN 15:2 - He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

Abide – stay close

James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Heb 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ps 107:4 - They wandered in the wilderness in a desert region;

They did not find a way

Josh 5:6 - For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness,

Duet 2:3 - 'You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north,

Jews were once in because they followed, they worshipped, they remained.

Then they rejected... the Messiah

Gentiles now choose to follow, obey, remain.

We have been grafted in. - - Rom 11

Vines? Trees? Plants? FRUITS?

We envy or covet or are jealous of some other kind...

Are we “life giving”, thriving / or have a failure to thrive, stagnant?

The **mere-exposure effect** is a psychological phenomenon by which people tend to develop a preference for things merely because they are familiar with them.

We hang around things and people we like. Studies have shown that we are attracted to what is familiar to us, and that repeated exposure to certain people will increase our attraction toward them. We are attracted to familiar people because we consider them to be safe and unlikely to cause harm. They do not require any change. (2 Cor – bad company corrupts good character)

Many choose to be stagnant and temporarily happy or gratified.

Others choose to stretch, grow through push through the change.

THE RABI and THE LOBSTER ! VIDEO

Often times, I have loved, accepted people then when the time is right, push for Spiritual growth and they resist / push back, often quit.

Blue Bloods episode where Jamie Reagan, a new sgt, told everyone to salute the front desk when coming and going into the precinct. They all made fun, called him names behind his back, and despised his leadership. One day he caught an imposter posing as a cop who had made the rounds at other precincts stealing weapons from lockers. They applauded his leadership after they understood his reason for the policy.

God may not reveal why He is doing something, but ABIDE anyway!

Bad fruit can come from not trusting Gods leadership.

Bad fruit can come from staying closer to Christians than Christ.

Bad fruit can come from wanting the ends to justify the means.

Bad fruit can come from listening to the wrong voices who influence us.

Can we catch a disease to our otherwise healthy fruit by making small compromises? Disobeying God in any area?

Morality (lie, cheat, steal, lust),

giving / tithing before spending.

serving others before self,

reading news and politics before scripture.

THE Press -

Philippians 3:14

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

As a leader, people will push you. Followers push your buttons

As a leader, to help followers, you push them

2 cor 4:8,9

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

JESUS talked a lot about separating things – such as...

1. wheat and chaff

2. sheep and goats

3. good fish and bad ones

4. wheat and weeds

Jtb lay the axe to the root”

Matt 25 - All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd **separates the sheep from the goats**. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Matt 13 - Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his **enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat**, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ 28 “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ 29 “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Matt 13:47 - “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down **and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away**. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Signs of spiritual disease and death:

1. unteachable, never ask for help or answers
2. lack of prayer and Bible study
3. not giving or serving
4. unhealthy coping mechanisms
5. self-doubt and self-worth issues

6. pride in good works

7. self justification of sin / no repentance

Gal 5

Gal 5: 4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. 7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. 11 Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. 12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

Verse 16 - **So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.** They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[c] you want. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Jer 24 - the Lord showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the Lord. 2 One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very bad figs, so bad they could not be eaten.³ Then the Lord asked me, **“What do you see, Jeremiah?”** **“Figs,”** I answered. **“The good ones are very good, but the bad ones are so bad they cannot be eaten.”**⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to me: 5 “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians.[b] 6 My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. 7 I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.

8 “‘But like the bad figs, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,’ says the Lord, ‘so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt. 9 I will make them abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, a curse[c] and an object of ridicule, wherever I banish them.