**Strength for Every Season:**

**Bearing Spiritual Fruit that Lasts**

***Accepting the Invitation:***

***Being a Garden People in a Wilderness World***

***John 15:1-8 (NIV)***

***August 31, 2025***

***1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.***

1. **WE WERE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_\_ FRUIT**

***1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.***

***John 15:1-2, 5***

***8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.***

***Genesis 2:8***

***To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in us, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ around us.***

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.***

***John 15:6-7***

***12 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; 13 planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, 15 proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”***

***Philippians 1:6***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,***

***and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.***

1. **THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.***

***John 15:8***

***36When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”***

***Matthew 9:36-38***

***Every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.***

**This Week’s Challenge:**

***Take stock of where you are at!***

***As we begin the conversation about strengthening our core ministries, this is the time to step up. Meditate on these questions:***

***Where have I seen fruit in my life/faith? Am I encouraging or discouraging its growth?***

***Where do I cultivate growth in my community and church?***

***Ask God to show you where the harvest is ready, and to send you to be a worker for His harvest***

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1. **WE WERE PLANTED TO PRODUCE FRUIT**

***1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.***

***John 15:1-2, 5***

***8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.***

***Genesis 2:8***

***To grow in us, and grow around us.***

1. **GROWTH IS ESSENTIAL**

***6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.***

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***Philippians 1:6***

***Growth is a proof of discipleship,***

***And a proof of health.***

1. **THE HARVEST IS READY**

***8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.***

***John 15:8***

***36When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”***

***Matthew 9:36-38***

***Every Season has its Fruits.***

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