



LESSON ONE: INTRODUCTION TO SPIRIT & SCRIPTURE

Part Two: Secret of the Vine

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:5 ESV.

As we begin to explore what it looks like to walk in the Spirit, let's dig deeper into one of the core New Testament illustrations of intimacy with Christ: Jesus Christ as the "True Vine." If we (the branch) are going to produce good fruit, we need to have a strong connection to Jesus Christ (the vine). Our enemy does not want God's word abiding in our hearts. If the lies of the devil are flowing into our life, we're going to get a totally different kind of fruit. If we live with a divided heart, the enemy's vines can wrap around us and produce bad fruit alongside our good. Heart-focused discipleship is about uprooting the enemy's vines and strengthening our union with Christ.

The goal of this session is to understand how walking in the Spirit is related to intimacy with God.

Reflect:

- When you think of having an abundant or fruitful Christian life, what comes to mind? How have you heard this explained? What has been most helpful to you? What has been confusing or unhelpful?
- Have you struggled with living out of a divided heart? Have you been concerned or confused about the mixed fruit you or a loved one is producing? How has this session helped you think about this mixed fruit?

Ask God:

Thank You, God, that You are my Gardener. Thank You that You want Your life to flow through me. Would You please bring to my mind an area of my life that is producing counterfeit fruit, where I am living out of a divided heart?

What do You want me to know about this area?

Practice:

For this session's practice, grab your Bible and a pen and paper or print off the following section from somewhere like [Blue Letter Bible](#).

- **Read John 15:1-17.** As you read, underline each mention of the word abide (or related word, depending on translation, e.g., "remain") and circle each mention of fruit (or related).
- You may notice that most "abide" uses are followed by "in..." When you finish reading, reference your underlines and make a list of these "in" statements (e.g., Abide in Me).
- What is the fruit of this Christian life? (Hint: Read John 15:12-17 and find the concluding "so that" statement.)

- Revisit your “Ask God” section prayer and continue the conversation:
 - God, thank You for loving me. What do You want my next step to be to strengthen our connection?

Go Deeper:

Secrets of the Vine by Bruce Wilkinson