

“Connected to the Vine” Matthew 8:1-4

In the time-line of each outcast must come the memory of the day he was forced to face the truth: life would never be the same!

Either He will hear my complaint and kill me or accept my demands and heal me. But then I saw Him and when I saw Him, I was changed!

Imagine that – unworthy of a touch from man, yet worthy of a touch from God! †

We need Christ! We need Him to come to us!
We can't be what *He* was meant to be!

I have said this to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world! (John 16:33)

READ from John 15:4-8

Jesus said, **“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.”**

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

The Holy Spirit of God creates faith in us *so that* we may see and believe who Jesus is and wait on Him to accomplish all His work!

If you're a Christian believer the Holy Spirit is in you and is able to fill you with the presence of Christ! Who of us don't need the sense of peace or assurance only available in God's Spirit in this pandemic?

“Seek the Holy Spirit every day to believe, to obey, to trust, and the Spirit will make known to you all that there is in Jesus. The Holy Spirit will make Jesus very glorious to you and in you.”

If you feel like you're about to lose your mind, can I suggest that God is using this period in time to arouse you and awaken you to His goodness, kindness, compassion, and love!

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your

life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Matthew 11:28; MSG

Anyone who does not remain in Me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

We are not expected to do what we are unable to do! Jesus intends to fulfill in you the life you were meant to have!

Jesus has come for you today!

In an age driven by ego, with pride in our personal skills and our own abilities, Christ calls us to a living reliance and utter dependence.

Are you one of the many who have no tolerance for days where your understanding of tomorrow is so vague?

Our struggle is letting go of our need to control; we struggle to surrender our lives, our loved ones, our finances and our future to trust in God.

It's time to reconnect to the vine before it's too late!

This is the day to lean on God and learn to live with the uncertainty of not knowing what tomorrow will bring – but believing in the One who provides through all of our tomorrows!

“For we live by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

It's important to know that the Holy Spirit creates faith – as you come to see and believe and trust Jesus to be the One who heals you of your anxiety!

Let Jesus do in you what you cannot do in yourself – to give birth to faith in Him?

PRAYER:

Jesus, produce Your life in me! Without You, I am a twig, a broken and brittle branch doomed to die. I offer my life to You and to serve those around me, not because I am even able to be available to You, but because You have grafted me into the vine. You produce Your fruit in me. Grant to us the hope and joy of knowing that You will be with us and provide for us from this day forward and forevermore! Amen