

Know Grow Show 18 Day Devotional

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PART 1 - KNOWING

DAY 1 - AN OVERVIEW

Would you consider the last words of a dying man important? You might say it depends on who and for whom. Right! The last words of my father mean a lot to me but not that of a stranger. The connection gives weight and meaning to words. Those words can affect the rest of our lives. For example, if it is the last will bequeathing everything to a long lost relative or you for that matter. So we first need to recognize who Jesus is. Who is Jesus to you? And more importantly, Do His words matter? If yes, then would we pay attention to what He is emphasizing.

As I was reading John 15, I realized there are red-letter words preceding John 15. It means this is a continuation of a talk Jesus was having with His disciples.

Where did it begin? I traced it back to John 13, which is another pivotal chapter: the great chapter on servanthood and it ends in chapter 17 with what we call Jesus' great "High Priestly Prayer". Soon after that, he goes to the garden of Gethsemane and is arrested there. Therefore, the last words of Jesus to his disciples start in chapter 13 and end with chapter 17. These must be very, very important things that he is talking about.

Chapter 13 is also a very important chapter because it is the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion; commonly referred to as the "Last Supper". He talks to them **about serving each other**, Judas's betrayal, and Peter's denial. This is heavy stuff.

He goes on in **Chapter 14** to comfort them with the future hope of being with him forever. Once again Jesus is telling them that HE is **the only way to the Father**. He is now speaking more clearly about Himself. He also talks about giving them the **promise of the Holy Spirit**

We then come to **Chapter 15 where** he transitions from talking about the intimate union between the Father and him to the intimate **union between Jesus and us**.

When we are in close union with Jesus, we are in close union with the Father (because the Father is in Jesus, and Jesus in the Father -John 14:10). This is just amazing stuff! In **Chapter 16**, He explains more about the working of the Holy Spirit and what they can expect to happen after his death, resurrection, and ascension.

John 13:1-5 "Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. **[a]** 2 It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, **[b]** son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that

he had come from God and would return to God. **4** So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, **5** and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him."

John 13:31-35 "**31** As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man[a] to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. **32** And since God receives glory because of the Son,[b] he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. **33** Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. **34** So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. **35** Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.""

John 14:15-21 "**15** "If you love me, obey[a] my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[b] who will never leave you. **17** He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.[c] **18** No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. **19** Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. **20** When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. **21** Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.""

DAY 2 – THE TRUE VINE

VERSE 1 - "I am the true vine".

This opening statement in John 15 hits the bull's-eye. Jesus opens with "**I AM**". Jesus made some great "I AM" declarations during his three and a half years of ministry. This was the last one. To name a few: I am the door, I am the way, the truth the life, I am the resurrection and the life, I am the good shepherd, I am the light of the world, I am the bread of life, etc. Now he says, I am the true vine.

Why did He leave this "I am" for the last? I believe because this is the most important of them all. Our faith, fruitfulness, and fellowship with one another hinges on this truth that He is the true vine. I am led to ponder on this "I am" some more.

1. Is he enough?

Will I be satisfied with only knowing Jesus and enjoying sweet communion with Him? Can I be happy to just abide in Him and allow His presence to envelope, surround and linger around Him? Can you? In addition, Jesus knew that they would be tempted to run away and go back to their old life once he was crucified. He was reminding them that what they experienced with Him in the last three years was the real deal. He is the true Messiah.

2. Who am I?

When I know Jesus like this, I also realize who I am. I am a part of Him. I am grafted into his being, his family. I get my identity from being a part of the vine. I know who I am because I know who I belong to. My identity will not be confused or weak but strong, secure and thriving. This identity is vital because my whole life is lived from it.

3. Other vines

It means there are many vines that I could be a part of. However, the only true vine is Jesus. Am I in the true vine? Do I belong to Jesus? Does the life flow from out of him or from some other source? Have I made Him the center of my life, my Lord, my Savior? Jesus is inviting us to come and remain in Him.

Now he is saying I am the true vine

As Christians, we need to remind ourselves that our union with Christ is something special we enjoy. It was not always so. We were not connected to the TRUE VINE.

There was a time we were enemies with God, hostile to his ways, outside His kingdom. Then a miracle happened! We heard the life-giving words of the gospel and in his great mercy and loving-kindness, we were drawn to repentance. We made a confession of faith in Jesus and we were born again. From that moment on, we were made New Creations in Christ; we were **transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. We were given a new identity and a new community.**

Note it says we were transferred from one Kingdom into another, not one church into another. The church is a part of the kingdom of God. The day we were born again, we became full-time ambassadors of Christ. There is no divide between the sacred and secular. Therefore, once we are born again, **we are in Christ, in His Kingdom though still in this world.** We have been grafted into the true vine that is Jesus.

John 15:1 ““I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.”

Romans 11:17-21 “**17** But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree. **18** But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

19 “Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.” **20** Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn’t believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don’t think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. **21** For if God did not spare the original branches, he won’t[\[a\]](#) spare you either.”

DAY 3 - ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

Verse 2 – “He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit.”

Fruit-bearing is a kingdom principle. This is a kingdom principle set in motion right in Genesis chapter 1 where Adam is commanded to “Be fruitful and increase.” This is the first command God gave mankind.

Fruitfulness is a part of God’s DNA and is a recurring theme with Jesus. You see it in the parable of the Talents, Minas, the fig tree, etc. Jesus said you will be known by your fruit. We will look more into this in the few days.

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit

This is an interesting statement and one that many scholars have debated about. The Greek word for “cut off” is “*airo*” which means to ‘lift up’. As I think about this and a vineyard, it begins to make sense. Firstly, I do not think this passage is about separating the ‘sheep from the goats’. At the heart of this passage is Jesus’ desire for us to know Him, to grow in him and show His love to one another.

So in that context let’s look at “lift up”. Young vines are thin and weak and need support. If not they will lie on the ground, not grow to their full potential, and not bear fruit. Therefore, the vinedresser’s job is to spot these weak branches on the ground and lift them up onto the trellis that is there for their support. In doing that, the young vine also begins to get intertwined with the older branches and take support from them and that cycle going on. I think you can see where I am going with this. We will look more into this in Part 3 of this devotion.

Lifting up is a loving gracious act of the Father. He does not want us to fall away or be fruitless. He helps us in our weakness; he guides us and leads us in the way of life and in the paths of righteousness. I feel very comforted when I ponder on this.

Bible scholars say this could also refer to someone **who has not truly put their faith in Jesus**. They could be just pretending or going through the motions. They could attend Church every Sunday but have no living faith, no connection with Jesus, no relationship with Him. **They may look like a believer, talk like one but they have no fruit.** They are just a twig. The Gardener will cut this off.

These are not true believers. This is a good time to pause and examine yourself. If this is you, then I urge you, in view of God’s mercy, to come to Him, repent of wanting your own way. Confess Jesus as the only way and the Lord of your life and become that branch that has well and truly been grafted in.

It is not referring to believers losing their salvation. This is about unbelievers who think they are grafted in without producing fruit and are deceived. This is a sobering verse. We need to examine ourselves and ask ourselves whether we have been truly grafted in. The test of this is fruitfulness. What was your last area of fruitfulness?

We are called to be a **blessing to be fruitful**.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF | Do you remember a time when you needed some “lifting up” when you were weak in your faith or had lost your way? Thank God that He did not give up on you but was gentle in the way he brought you back into the community where you could get support.

Am I in the true Vine? Do I know Jesus as my personal Savior? If not, get in touch with someone who can tell you more or read a plan here on how to become a Christ-follower.

If you know that you are a part of the true vine, take a moment to thank God for the miracle and gift of salvation. Thank God for the relationship you enjoy with Him.

John 15:2-3 “**2** He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.**3** You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

James 2:17” So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”

DAY 4- BETTER THE SHEARS THAN THE AXE

“Every branch that bears fruit He prunes “

How is pruning different from cutting? You cut away all dead branches. Healthy branches are pruned in order to be more fruitful. You cut the branch back so that the foliage and the flowering are dense therefore more fruit. You also cut back long extended branches that are unnecessarily taking up nutrients.

Pruning is not a punishment as some people might think, but a reward for growth. When we are growing we need adjustments in our life, in our attitudes, values, etc. When the branch is cut back all the sap flow is concentrated and redirected. Sometimes God may redirect our focus.

When we begin to bear fruit, certain things might show up – some heart issues that might need adjusting. In humility, allow God to do that adjustment. Pruning brings maturity. **There is a season for pruning so that the season of growth will produce healthy fruit and it will be evident.**

Do we have unproductive areas in our lives or areas that are hindering our growth? Are there areas robbing our energy and our focus? Has it resulted in stunted growth in our Christian calling? God is always looking for an increase.

We lose our effectiveness when we are carrying dead things in our lives or when we give our time to useless pursuits. Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart today. Is it a habit, behavior, thought patterns,

secret sins, and unhelpful friendships? Sometimes these may not necessarily be bad things in themselves.

Sometimes a branch may be all leaves and no fruit. It has the appearance of being healthy and fruitful but it is not. It is only ornamental. This is when pruning is needed. God is not interested in outward appearance. He wants genuine fruit that comes from heart transformation.

We can go from one conference to the next, one Sunday meeting to the next and never have our lives challenged, changed or mature.

God may say to us, “It’s great you came to church every Sunday, how about you read scripture to bless someone?” He is pruning your understanding of why you come to church. It could be “it’s great that you say you love your wife and that you are a good provider, but can you make her cup of tea?” He is pruning your view of yourself as a husband and your expression of love for her. I could go on.

What is God putting his finger on? Will you allow Him to prune you? Is there something that needs to be cut off?

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF | Do I have any areas in my life that are not bearing fruit? Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart today. Is it a habit, behavior, thought patterns, secret sins, and unhelpful friendships? Sometimes these may not necessarily be bad things in themselves.

Are there any activities I am involved in that need pruning?

How do I respond to pruning?

John 15:2 “He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.”

Matthew 25:23 “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

Hebrews 12:7-8 “**7** As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? **8** If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.”

DAY 5 - CLEANED NOT CUT

VERSE 3 - you are already clean by the Word I have spoken to you.

The word “cleaned” is the same as “pruned” or already prepared by pruning. Cleansing and pruning are two sides of the same coin. **Cleansing is what we also call Justification.** We are made righteous. We have

been declared clean by the Word. **Pruning is Sanctification**, which is an ongoing work throughout our lives.

We will always go through seasons of pruning. Being made clean is a one time event that was accomplished when we accepted the finished work of the cross in our lives.

Verse 3 tells us through His WORD we are cleaned or pruned. When we read and reflect on His word, it is like holding a mirror up to our hearts and we allow God to cut away things that are not helping me be fruitful.

The account in Luke 22:24 tells us what the disciples just got pruned from i.e their desire to be the greatest. He gave them an object lesson by washing their feet. When I know His Word, I know His will and heart for me. Just as a gardener guides the branches on the trellis, His Word in us will guide and shape our lives.

Jesus is not interested in "dressed up Christianity" but the real deal. He said that we will be known by the fruit we produce in our lives. When I stay close to Him, abide in him; that intimacy leads to a deep revelation of who he is. In knowing Him I know what makes him happy and I begin to align everything in my life. The desire for intimacy with Him makes me want to change. **So revelation leads to transformation.**

I would like to end this first part by reminding us that connection is critical. Without this, we are like scattered pieces of twigs that have no life or life source. We will never be able to bear fruit in this way. We will never be able to enjoy true communion with Jesus. Let us get stuck in, abide, remain, stay connected. **Pursue this connection passionately and see if your life will not change.**

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF | So what is the Holy Spirit putting his finger on today? We don't want to read another devotional and not be inspired or challenged by it. If you need something to be cut off from your life – a habit, an addiction, a relationship, a behavior, surrender it to God. His grace comes to empower us. Is there some heart attitude or even behavior that needs to be pruned back to make you more fruitful? Is The Word shaping and guiding my life? Make it your mirror, your compass today.

John 15:3 "You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you."

Luke 22:24-29 "**24** Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. **25** Jesus told them, 'In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' **26** But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. **27** Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves. **28** 'You have stayed with me in my time of trial. **29** And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right'"

John 13:17 "Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."

PART 2: GROW

DAY 6 - REMAIN

Verse 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."*

Jesus calls us to abide or remain or to be with Him. How do we abide in a digital world that pings, and screens that light up every other minute?

Many things are grabbing our attention each day and the immediacy of everything is to the point of being ridiculous. Everything is on-demand with the touch of one button, and everything demands our attention in like manner. In a way, one can say these things have acquired an ever-abiding presence in our lives.

The pressures of work are real – long hours, long commutes to and from the office, and deadlines.

Our relationship with Jesus cannot and should not be another pressure point; rather he should be the place where all pressure gets released. Meeting Him ought to be a joy rather than a duty. What may start as a discipline can eventually become a delight. It is like when you first learn an instrument. Sheer discipline gets you through the daily practice of scales, exercises, etc. until finally, when you begin to play actual tunes, you begin to enjoy the experience.

Jesus does not come to add to your burdens but he is our burden bearer, He is the lifter of our heads. He does not put heavy, legalistic demands on us. He is calling us into a love relationship with Him. Abiding with Jesus should de-stress you. In his presence is peace because He is peace.

When you love someone, you want to spend time with him or her. You are not timing it or clocking in. Time is never enough. That is what Jesus is calling us into – **a restful abiding in His presence – out of joy and not duty.**

"Remain in me as I remain in you".

How does He remain in us? He takes his permanent residence in our hearts. He is going nowhere. He has now made his dwelling among us. Therefore, we have God's indwelling presence in our hearts. We need to rejoice in this truth – we are the only people on the planet that can say God dwells in us and speaks to us. Just pause and think how truly awesome is that?

His presence with us is not conditional upon how I behave or respond to Him. He is with us for keeps. Forever! He is not a man that He should lie. If he says he will never leave us, He will NEVER leave us. What blessed assurance! He is committed to us to the point where He has promised never to leave nor forsake us. He said He will be with us till the very end of the age. That is how He wants us to be committed to him.

Our fruit-bearing that resembles Jesus is dependent upon our remaining in Him. Just as an apple tree produces apples and not bananas, when we are connected to Jesus, our fruit will reflect Him

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

What can I do to make my time with Jesus a delight? I find listening to worship, or a message that talks about the character of Jesus helps me to connect better. I also journal my thoughts about Him and who He is to me.

How can I practice becoming aware of His presence in everything that I do?

Spend five minutes listening to Him talk to you and tell you how much he loves you. You will be surprised at the wonderful things he has to say to you about you.

John 15:4-5 **“4** Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. **5** “Yes, 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.”

DAY 7 - HOW DO I REMAIN?

***Verse 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.”*

What does remain mean? Our relationship with Jesus is eternal. No one can pluck you from His hand. However, what quality of relationship you enjoy is up to you.

The word abide/remain is repeated 10 times in a span of 4 verses. Repetition for emphasis is a style of a good teacher and Jesus certainly was that. We would be wise to pay attention to what Jesus puts an emphasis on.

The Word abide/remain is also translated “to stay/to dwell”. To make your dwelling place. This is seen in the Old Testament very well in Psalm 91 and Psalm 84. It is about taking up residence. It is where you feel secure, relaxed “at home” and have your most intimate relationships.

In the Old Testament, God’s presence was confined to a geographical space. People traveled from all over to come to the temple where His presence was. His death on the cross put an end to that. Today, his presence is not confined to a box behind a thick curtain. **He has made our hearts His dwelling place.**

So we see that remaining has a lot to do with **our response not Jesus’ commitment to us.** He is

committed to us to the very end of the age. Note the verse puts the onus on us. Jesus on his part said he would never leave us.

Abiding requires commitment and covenant. It is not transactional or conditional. Remaining requires a long-term commitment. It is not wishy-washy. It requires determination, steadfastness, and faithfulness no matter what.

Jesus is unconditionally faithful and committed to us. Are we unconditionally faithful and committed to him? Is it a relationship of convenience? You may even ask what has all the remaining or abiding have to do with growing? It has everything to do with growing. Without the remaining, you cannot have growth.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

Do I know deep in my heart that Jesus is always **with** me?

Do I know deep in my heart that Jesus is always **for** me?

How do you experience His presence? If you have not, ask Him to reveal himself to you.

Whether you feel Him or not, anchor in the truth that he will always be with you.

John 15:5 ““Yes, 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.”

Hebrews 13:5 “ Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.”[\[a\]](#)

Matthew 28:20 “Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

DAY 8 : RESULT OF REMAINING – GROWING

Verse 5 - *“If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;”*

Fruitfulness is linked to my relationship with Jesus. It is not about how well I administer or create programs. It is not connected to my slick Sunday service. It has got nothing to do with trappings of modern-day Christianity.

It’s so simple to the point that we actually ignore it or miss it altogether. **It’s about me “being” and not “doing”. The focus is on BEING, to begin with, and then the BECOMING will follow**

Remain or BE and then you will BECOME fruitful.

This verse tells me that **I bear fruit from abiding**. I bear fruit as my relationship with Jesus grows. The more I draw from the main branch, the more fruit I bear.

Fruitfulness comes from intimacy and heart connection. Transformation comes from intimacy and heart connection.

Abiding or remaining will make us live from His presence and not just principles. The more I spend time with Jesus; I will catch his thoughts, his ways, and his heart on different issues of life. Like children who consciously or unconsciously imitate their parents' walk, expressions, and ways of doing things; we will soon begin to reflect Jesus in what we do and say.

John 5:39-40 *"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."*

When we come into his presence, we get a deeper revelation of who He is. **Revelation transforms us, not information.** Knowledge of His word is only the gateway to Revelation. Then we want a deeper understanding and communion with Him.

Today is an invitation to go deeper with Jesus.

Obedience without love is cold, dry, and faithless. It will not produce healthy fruit. The Pharisees did that and it only made them blind to their sin and judgmental of everyone else.

They could not see the heart of the Father in His actions, the compassion, and love with which He healed people, the grace with which he related to the sinners that drew them to repentance.

Religion hides or prevents us from knowing the Father. Jesus came to reveal the Father. When we abide close to Him we will also know the Father because He and the Father are ONE (John 14:11). He tells us all about that in Chapter 14:23. If we love Him and obey Him, the Father will love us.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

What can you do to go deeper in your relationship with Jesus?

Ask yourself whether your "Quiet Time" has been a duty or delight. Start making some real, honest conversations with Jesus. Trust me he will not be shocked. He already knows!

Do you want to know Jesus more? Spend time with Him and listen to Him speak to you. Write down what he says. He has wonderful things to say to you.

John 15:5 *"Yes, 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."*

John 14:23 “Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.”

John 14:11 “Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.”

John 5:39-40 “**39** “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! **40** Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.”

DAY 9 - Disconnection

Verse 5 “.. apart from me you can do nothing”

This sounds like a strong statement. What does He mean by “nothing?” Let us break this sentence down some more.

The Greek word for “**you can**” is “***dynasthe***” which means to be powerful or have the power or the ability.

The Greek word for “**do**” is “***poiein***” which means to make, manufacture, construct, to act, or cause.

The Greek word for “**nothing**” is “***ouden***” which means, no one, none, nothing.

Therefore, the sentence translates as, I am powerless to do anything without Jesus. I am incapable of bearing fruit that resembles him if I am not attached to Him. I cannot have his DNA in me if I am not connected to Him, therefore cannot bear fruit that is in His likeness. I may bear other fruit in my life but not Jesus fruit.

To be disconnected would mean to get dismember-ed from the Vine. The analogy is two fold, individual, and corporate. This not only affects your relationship with Jesus but with one another as well. We are all a part of the body with many parts joined to each other and the head. We will look at this some more later.

This abiding is 24/7. It is not something we can or should switch on and off. We do not abide with Christ just on a Sunday morning and for 15 minutes every morning. We are abiding with Jesus at work, home, school, etc. When I was a mother of young children with a church and business to manage, there was never any free time. My kitchen became the place where I met with God. When I worked, I had worship music on and I could connect with the Holy Spirit as I bent over my art (my business was hand-made greeting cards at the time)

We need to live from a Kingdom perspective in order to abide in Christ. This requires practice and intentionality. Jesus lived in constant commune with His Father. He did not do anything apart from His

Father. Then He tells us to abide in Him in the same manner and tells us that apart from Him we can do nothing! In Acts 17:28 we are reminded that it is in Him we live, move, and have our being!

It is about being God-conscious. He becomes our frame of reference for everything we do.

It is a wonderful and secure way to live. **When I live from His presence and act from His presence**, I will begin to reflect His qualities. I have been made a new creation that has the ability to reflect His nature now. I will have God's thoughts, Christ-like thought patterns that think more about others than myself.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

Describe your relationship with Jesus. Is it relational or transactional?

Do I take Jesus to work with me or when I am with my friends?

John 15:5 "Yes, 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."

Psalms 84:1-12

1 How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of Heaven's Armies.

2 I long, yes, I faint with longing
to enter the courts of the LORD.
With my whole being, body and soul,
I will shout joyfully to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young
at a place near your altar,
O LORD of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God!

4 What joy for those who can live in your house,
always singing your praises. *Interlude*

5 What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD,
who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

6 When they walk through the Valley of Weeping,^[b]
it will become a place of refreshing springs.
The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.

7 They will continue to grow stronger,
and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.^[c]

8 O LORD God of Heaven's Armies, hear my prayer.
Listen, O God of Jacob. *Interlude*

9 O God, look with favor upon the king, our shield!
Show favor to the one you have anointed.

10 A single day in your courts
is better than a thousand anywhere else!
I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God
than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

11 For the LORD God is our sun and our shield.
He gives us grace and glory.
The LORD will withhold no good thing
from those who do what is right.

12 O LORD of Heaven's Armies,
what joy for those who trust in you.

DAY 10 - WHAT DOES NOT ABIDING LOOK LIKE?

Verse 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.*"

Remember Jesus is addressing His disciples. He is not talking to the crowd. These are His last instructions to them for how they are to live henceforth. He is using a lot of repetition, comparison, and analogies.

"*If you do not remain, you are like*" This is a comparative statement. He is telling them what their life will look like if they do not stay in constant commune with Him. To say that that will happen to them would be a contradiction to the covenant He has made with them.

He is merely saying do not think you can live this life apart from being closely connected to me. If you do that you will be like that withered branch that is useless and fruitless.

Sometimes just because we are in a certain environment it does not mean we have absorbed the essence of that environment. I may pick up some externals but not truly be a part of that culture. This can happen to us when we are not all in.

Another thing that can happen is we allow other things to grab our attention and sap our energy. For example, living to please me, distracted by other commitments, religious duty, not committed to things that matter to Jesus viz: Time with Him, how we interact with our family, our personal private holiness, our love quotient for other Christians, our diligence at work, faithful in giving and serving.

We live in this world but we are not of it. Jesus is not a killjoy. He wants us to have an abundant life. However, He does not want possessions to possess us.

Hindrances to abiding

The bible will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from the bible.

Anxiety and fear cloud our thinking and clogs our hearts. Fear and love cannot co-exist. His perfect love will drive away fear and anxiety.

When we are able to fix our mind on Him, He gives us his perfect peace. Do you know what that is? It is himself – **his presence. Peace is a person.** Jesus is the prince of peace.

Unforgiveness and offense – This not only builds walls towards the people you are offended with, but it also affects your relationship with God. We cannot love God and hate our brother. If I dismember myself from one part of the body, I also disengage with the Head i.e Jesus.

We will talk more about our horizontal relationship with people over the next few days.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

If you have been struggling to see spiritual progress or growth, think about your habits or lifestyle. Is there anything there that can be a hindrance?

Do I have blockages in my heart because of habitual sin, unresolved conflict, forgiveness, or offense? Quickly repent and resolve to turn away from the sin that is hindering your walk with God. Find a trustworthy Christian friend to talk to and be accountable to.

Unforgiveness is deadly, literally. Resolve to forgive the person and not expect an apology. When you release them, you set yourself free.

John 15:6 “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.”

1 John 2:11 “But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.”

John 17:15 “I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.”

1 Peter 2:11-12 “**1** Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.**12** Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.[a]

DAY 11 - BLANK CONDITIONAL CHEQUE

Verse 7 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you. This is to my Father’s glory that you bear much fruit showing yourselves to be my disciples”

What a bold statement! Jesus is throwing us a challenge. He almost is giving us a blank cheque. It has a ‘but’ attached to it. It is not a trick. It is plain and simple. We need to stick close to Him. His Words and instructions need to be deeply ingrained in our minds and brandished upon our hearts. **He has so much confidence in the life-giving and transforming power of His word and presence; he knows that it will produce the good fruit of a Godly character in us.**

When we think, feel, talk, behave like Him, we will also have the same desires as Him. We will ask for and advocate for things that are on His heart. We will have become one with Him in heart and mind just like he is one with the Father and only does what He sees that Father doing.

Jesus knows that when we are fully abiding with Him, we will be fully united with Him in heart and purpose therefore will only ask for things that are on His heart too. Whatever is on the heart of Jesus is on the Father’s heart as well. Therefore, He knows that those kinds of requests will be answered.

When we ask in this manner, we will bring his kingdom culture on earth as it is in heaven. When His will is done on earth, it brings glory to the Father. When our lives display the culture of the Kingdom people will see that we belong to Jesus. Our character will be the fruit that people will see. Our lives will speak. This is such a provocation and a challenge.

It is a good challenge actually. All we need to do is allow his words to take root in our hearts.

Jesus keeps reminding us that He is the main vine, we are the branches. He is our life source. **The vine is very good. We can trust Him.** So if I am a branch attached to the vine it makes sense that I cannot but bear good fruit. He will feed and nourish me from the abundance of His storehouse. If I am getting all my

nutrients from what He is providing for me through His presence and His Word, the fruit in my life will be good and in abundance. What an exciting way to live!

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

What can I do to stay close to Jesus? Maybe listen to some messages on who is Jesus? Put on some worship that exalts Jesus.

Have you seen answers to prayer? Would you like to see some more? How can you align your heart and mind to know His will?

John 15:7 "But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!"

Part 3 : SHOW

DAY 12 - We Are Loved.

What do you consider as the greatest thing for our lives apart from salvation? What is the most important thing ever!

We have been meditating on John 15 over the last few days and we said that these are Jesus' last words and instructions to his disciples. He was not going to waste them on trivial things, not that He ever did. He said things that were very close to his heart and things that he felt they needed to know in order to survive and succeed after He left the earth.

We are reflecting on John 15:9 today. *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."*

We are going to look at LOVE today. Is it not great that Jesus starts off by **reassuring us of His love? He loves us as much as the Father loves HIM**. That is the most perfect intense love ever! HE said this to his disciples before they could even do anything for HIM. Jesus says the same to us. He loved us before we could even say "Jesus come into my heart".

The Bible tells us he chose us even before the foundations of the earth were laid. You always have been a part of his eternal plan. We can only respond to his love because He loved us first. **Knowing must come before growing** or the growth is a religious activity that is aimed at getting approval rather than from a place of approval.

God's love for us is complete. We do not relate to Him from a place of fear or acceptance based on performance. We related to Him from a place of relationship and grace. That is how He invited the disciples to remain in Him. To stay close to him. Now remain: what a word of comfort and reassurance!

Have you known love like this? We often understand, receive, and give love in the way we have experienced it. Our own life experience becomes the framework and filter through which we perceive life.

Maybe you grew up in a loving family with both parents who showered love upon you and encouraged you in all your pursuits.

Sadly, this is not the case for many. Many have grown up with criticism, abuse, uncertainty, hate, violence to name a few horrid things people have had to endure as children.

Today, you can begin a new journey into understanding and receiving pure perfect love that comes from Jesus. The Father's love for Jesus is perfect. Jesus says He loves us in the same way. He delights over you. He was excited at your birth because He knit you in your mother's womb. He has been with you right through and will never leave you. Take a moment to allow that truth to sink in.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

What has been my understanding of love and how have I received and given love?

Do I know deep down in my heart that God loves me no matter how much I mess things up?

John 15:9 ""I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love."

1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

1 John 3:1 "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him."

Ephesians 4:1-5 "Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. **2** Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. **3** Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. **4** For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. **5** There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,"

Romans 5:8 "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

DAY 13 – Command To Love

Let's look at John 15:10 today: "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love"

How do we remain in Him? We remain by first knowing that He has invited us into a relationship of love and full acceptance.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 10 that if we keep His commandments, we will remain in Him. Great! So what is this commandment?

Here Jesus tells us about the Father's love for him and His own love for us. **Jesus says obedience is an indication of love.** Over the next 5 days, we will look at different aspects of love.

The Pharisees were obedient. Was that an indication of love? Jesus spells out what this command is in verses 12 and 13.

Why is there this switch? There is a **shift in focus from our relationship with Jesus to our relationship with one another?**

He knew if He asked us to just love Him that would be easy. He asked us to love each other! He knew that was another story!! **The test of our love for Him is in our obedience to this command; to love each other.**

The secret source to joy and fruitfulness is not in what I do for God but what I do for others. Jesus said, whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers you are doing it for me.

We can be very good at communion with God but have not connected with people. However, Jesus challenges us to do it. It is a commandment. It is not a suggestion.

If you have been in the habit of neglecting communion with your brothers and sisters, building friendships, reaching out to each other when there is a need, praying, or each other; you are in violation of the greatest commandment.

We need to align our understanding, behavior, and lifestyle to the word of God and not try to twist the scriptures to match our convenience.

Jesus says we cannot say we love God but hate our brothers. Well, you might say I do not hate my brother. Do you love your brother as Christ loves him? That is the standard of love He is expecting from us.

God is love. He is relational. God's love is mentioned 310 times in the Bible and 179 times in the New Testament. He made us in his image. So if Jesus says that **all I need is love then love is all I need.** It is very simple but really, when you think about it, it is that simple. We rather hide behind rules, rituals, religious duty than invest in relationships, which equals LOVE.

Can I not just come to church, worship God, give my tithes, and go home?

No, my friends. Humanism has tried to take away the God factor and love has gone awry. When you only 'love God' without the human factor what you get is extremism, radicalized religious groups. Both are unbiblical and dangerous. Love is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Love God and love one another. You need both. Everything hinges on these two.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF | Do I struggle in showing unconditional love to others?

Have I truly experienced God's unconditional love for me? Do I know that I don't need to do anything to make Him love me more and nothing I do can make Him love me less? Let this truth get into your bones!

John 15:9-10 **"9** "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.**10** When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love."

John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

1 John 1:9 " But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

1 John 3:11-16 **"11** This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **12** We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous.**13** So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters,[a] if the world hates you.

14 If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers,[b] it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.**15** Anyone who hates another brother or sister[c] is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

16 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters."

DAY 14 - CAUSE OF LOVE

Verse 12 –*'Love each other as I have loved you.'*

This is another qualifying statement showing us how we should love. It's not loving as much as the other person loves me. It's not a 'tit for tat' love. The word "As "means in the same way. No different.

Jesus knows that we are not capable of this kind of love until we have been filled with love. That is why He asks us to stay close to Him. We cannot give out of nothing. Once we have tanked up on His unconditional, merciful, tender, compassionate, extravagant love of Jesus, then all that will come out of us is his love.

Growing up some of us have only known human love which is imperfect therefore can be conditional, manipulative, mean, selfish, demanding, self-centered. If this is all we have experienced, this is our grid from which we do relationships. This does not mean our parents are bad people or all people around us are wicked. We live on an orphaned planet where people do not know God's love till they encounter the Cross and accept Jesus.

Love motivated the Father to send Jesus to the earth and die a horrible death to save us from eternal damnation by taking the judgment of all our sins upon His body on the cross. His Love for us kept him there.

Jesus did two things – In John 13, to show the full extent of his love, he served the disciples by washing their feet. Then the final culmination of His love was His dying in our place.

Jesus said the world would know that we are his disciples if we love one another. This is very important.

When we know and experience the love of God, we are able to truly love one another. We can only give pure love when we have received pure love.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF | How did you experience love growing up?

Thank Jesus for His love today. Pick verses from the Bible that speak about the love of God and speak that over yourself.

John 15:12 "This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you."

John 13:1-5 "Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.^[a] **2** It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas,^[b] son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. **4** So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, **5** and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him."

1 John 3:1 "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him."

DAY 15 - COMPOSITION OF LOVE

What is the composition of Love? In other words, how would you describe or define love? Jesus defined love for us – **it is laying down our lives for each other**. Is there anyone here for whom you are willing to die? Well, this is what Jesus expects of us. So when we say we love, let us think again.

In day-to-day terms, what does it look like? It means putting the other person's interest above my own. It means helping someone even when it's not convenient. It means overlooking people's faults and weaknesses. This is where the rubber hits the road. This is where the profession of our faith is tested.

Love is an action word – feelings may accompany it, but it is a decision of the will.

Today, love is often misrepresented as just feelings and something that happens to you when the mood and the environment are right.

The Bible defines love very differently. One only needs to look at 1 Corinthians 13. That is our standard.

Love is something we do for another person.

Love is not a feeling. Love is wrapped in flesh and blood. **I cannot isolate myself from the family of God and say I have love. That is a contradiction.**

That is why meeting together in church or a home group is important. **Christianity is personal as well as a corporate faith.** We live the faith together. Love cannot be practiced in isolation.

Do you know how many bible verses are there that say "one another"? **There are 59 verses in the New Testament on one another.**

You can unite around ideology, theology, a cause, or even a common enemy – but that unity is fragile. Should there be a change in any of these elements, the unity will disintegrate.

Love transcends all this. The ideology can change; the cause can change but if you love unconditionally from the heart you can still be united.

You do not have to agree on everything to love. **Love that demands agreement on everything, is not love. It's control, manipulative, and often uses fear to get conformity.**

In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity. If only we practice this more!!

John 15: 12-15 **"12** This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. **13** There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."

DAY 16 : Consequence of Love.

Verse 16 - *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last*

Verses 16 and 17 wraps up this topic on love. Jesus is summarizing what he said. Before our story started, He had a plan for our lives, he wanted us to be productive and he reminds us of the privileges we enjoy because of being with Him.

What is this fruit that Jesus is after?

Intrinsically linked to our fruitfulness is our loving one another. Jesus deliberately intertwines the vine and branches. I think if we stop to reflect upon our lives and our experience of the church you will agree that one of the toughest things we have had to deal with is relationships. This has been the most challenging area in my faith journey and the reason I have stayed in the mediation of this chapter for more than 2 years. We get disappointed, hurt, offended, ill-treated, abused, and cheated. Yes, this happens amongst Christians.

So how do we cope, what do we do?

Most of us stumble on this thing called love. Very few people have left a church because of doctrinal differences but many have left because of hurt and unresolved issues. Too many church splits have happened because people have not practiced putting love first.

This is where we would stumble and Jesus knew this. Many of us make the mistake of measuring Christianity by how it is lived around us. This is unhelpful. Our standard of truth is the Word of God. Do not judge the church based on how people live because you are also a part of it and her imperfections.

Look at God's word and see how it asks you to respond in the face of conflict, disagreements, hurt, and injustice.

Sometimes I feel **we Christians put a very heavy yoke on each other**— that of perfection. We expect everyone to treat us right while we give ourselves such a wide margin that we are off the page!

You see this as a recurring theme even through the epistles. **Paul is constantly asking believers to live in love and unity.**

When this happens, we will bear **lasting fruit** (verse 16). We can have many kinds of fruit in our lives. **Jesus is looking for one particular kind – the lasting kind.**

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

Have you been challenged in the area of loving people? How did you handle it? Is there anything you would do differently as a result of today's reflection?

How do you react when someone does not agree with you?

Get in touch with anyone you may have an unresolved issue and approach the person with love and the willingness to understand rather than defend your position.

John 15:16-17 “**16** You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other.”

DAY 17 : CANCER TO LOVE

WHAT PREVENTS US FROM LOVING?

DISCONNECTION

We need to **stay connected**. We cannot be a branch that is disconnected. Jesus has deliberately intertwined the branches and the vine. You do not know which branch is passing the sap from the vine onto you.

God sovereignly puts you beside people in a church etc. We have to learn to go along and to love deeply. **People don’t care how much you know till you show them how much you care.**

DISAPPOINTMENT /UNREAL EXPECTATIONS

We all carry around a “**Spec to meter**”. We are very good at counting the spec in our neighbor’s eye. We forgot that we have a whole tree growing out of our own. This clouds our judgment and vision of people. We need to shed a critical and judgmental spirit.

Christians can be the most **judgmental** people because we have the knowledge and we think we know and that can blind us into thinking we practice it.

Why was Jesus so harsh with the Pharisees? They were very obedient – but it was loveless and graceless.

We need to remind ourselves of the Grace of God upon our lives. He never treats us as our sins deserve. We have been forgiven much. Yet we often want to extract justice when we are sinned against.

We need to have a sober judgment of shortcomings, our weaknesses, and ourselves and extend grace to others.

UNFORGIVENESS /OFFENSES

This never affects us in isolation. Slow poison will soon affect everything we touch. We will get **bitter, cynical, untrusting of everyone.**

It becomes a lens through which we view all of life. It is the wrong lens. We will start to draw the wrong conclusions about situations and people and will only bring more pain.

We have no choice when it comes to forgiveness. We have to let go in order to set ourselves free. Do yourself a favor and forgive today. Unforgiveness can even block you from experiencing the love of God. How do I know this? I have been there, where every waking thought was filled with a replay of the hurt. I had to learn to surrender it and repent from holding onto unforgiveness.

We are told to forgive others as we forgive others who sin against us.

Luke 11:4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

Matt 6:15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
That is serious.

PRIDE AND SELF-SEEKING

The disciples were jostling for power, promotion, and prominence. Remember John 15 is happening a few hours before Jesus' arrest. He knew what was ahead and that they were going to need each other in the new chapter in their faith. They could not be in competition with each other nor in constant comparison.

He wanted them to know the importance of first being connected to Him. It is from that prime connection that they get their identity and not from each other or in relation to each other, not what they do and don't do.

You can almost sense the urgency in Jesus' voice as HE is trying to get this truth across to a very distracted lot of disciples.

They had to learn to get along with each other. It is the same with us.

I find myself challenged by this so often. To love like Jesus which is all of 1Cor 13. Different facets of love challenge me. Sometimes I'm challenged to be patient, sometimes it's to overlook someone's weakness, sometimes it's to be kind, etc.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

Have you found it difficult to forgive? Remember how much you have been forgiven and start praying prayers of blessing for the people who have hurt you.

John 15:9-17 **“9** “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.**10** When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. **11** I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! **12** This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. **13** There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. **16** You didn't choose me. I chose you. I

appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other.”

Luke 11:4 “and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation.[\[a\]](#)”

Matthew 6:15 “But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

DAY 18: CONCLUSION

What I get from this passage is that it is all about my relationship with Jesus and the other branches – my fellow Christ-followers.

It’s not about keeping a set of rules and regulations. As I said earlier, the Pharisees were very good at it. However, it was cold and calculated to the last dill and cumin. Love was something they did not understand. **They understood religious rituals and not a relationship, which was always in God's heart; we would desire Him deeply.** Hence, they misunderstood Jesus. They never understood the compassion that caused him to smash Sabbath rules to heal the cripple.

Religion can snuff out and replace relationships so subtly that we can fail to recognize this shift in our hearts. We need the Holy Spirit to help keep us in check and connected.

Having walked with Jesus for more than 40 years, I have become more and more aware that I want the second half of my life to count even more. I want to make an impact, leave a legacy of love, and change the culture around me to reflect more of His Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

All this is possible with lasting effect when I function from a place of knowing Jesus intimately and as in verse 17 Jesus once again emphasizes “love each other”.

As I end, I am more convinced than ever that being connected to the vine is not about “spiritual disciplines” (and there is a place for that) but rather my relationship with Jesus and each other.

As Paul eloquently puts it

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (The Message)

The Way of Love

13 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

2 If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

REFLECT AND ASK YOURSELF |

How has this devotion influenced you?

What will you change because of this reflection in John 15?

Write down what you will do differently.

How will you practice abiding in the presence of God daily and how will you love for people to bring glory to the Father?

Well done for completing this study. I pray that your relationship with Jesus will be radically transformed and you will bear much fruit in the coming days.

John 15:17 "This is my command: Love each other."

1 Corinthians 13:13 "Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."

This devotional is taken from the book written By Navaz DCruz by the same title. To read it please go to [Amazon and Kindle](#)