

The source of power

The recent situation in Iran has led to an energy crisis and a rise in oil and gas prices. Let us also reflect on our spiritual power supply as a reminder to one another.

Jesus says in John 15: 4-5, “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.”⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me—and I in him—bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing. 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.” (NET)

Three things are implied in this Bible verse: connection, dependence, and continuance.

1. Connection is what we usually describe as “union with Christ.” Notice that this connection, this union, is mutual. We abide in him and he abides in us (v. 4). If there is no connection, there is no life, no fruit.

2. Abiding also implies dependence -- The branch derives its life and power from the vine. Without the vine, the branch is useless, lifeless, powerless. We are completely dependent upon Jesus for everything.

3. Abiding also involves continuance. The word, “abide” (Greek, *meno*) means to remain, or stay, or continue, which means keep abide in Him.

The vine and branches is Jesus' vivid and powerful illustrations for the believer's relationship with Him. Just as

branches can only bear fruit if they abide in the vine--so the only way we can glorify the Father through fruitful lives is by abiding in Jesus.

Jesus reminds us of all to keep consistent time with God everyday through prayer and reading the Bible. That is so true -- when we connected to Him, we can bear fruits, only connecting to Him, enables us to mirror Him and can be what He intends us to be.

To serve God can be done as doing a job. We are busy people; we may tend to get things done according to our schedule. We can do things without God. Keeping in Tune with God is an essential resource for us to serve Him, not just to get things done. A familiar tune came up in my mind, that I sang many years ago.

Whisper a prayer in the morning,
Whisper a prayer at noon,
Whisper a prayer in the evening,
To keep your heart in tune.

God answers prayer in the morning,
God answers prayer at noon.
God answers prayer in the evening,
So keep your heart in tune.

Jesus may come in the morning,
Jesus may come at noon,
Jesus may come in the evening,
So keep your heart in tune.

The simple song emphasized the importance of praying in the morning, afternoon, and evening to “keep your heart in tune.” We need to keep our hearts in tune with God in serving Him and connect to the spiritual source of power that we can live out a life to please God and shine for Him in front of others.