



# Daily Reflections

**April 27, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.

He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,  
and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own  
unless it remains on the vine,  
so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,  
because without me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me  
will be thrown out like a branch and wither;  
people will gather them and throw them into a fire  
and they will be burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,  
ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.  
By this is my Father glorified,  
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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## Our Scripture Reflection

To a community threatened by numerous factors from Roman persecution to family ostracism and rejection simply because of their belief in Jesus, the words in today's text were life giving and life saving. Hold on to the vine, says Jesus. Jesus promises them and us that not only will we survive but we will all thrive by remaining closely connected to Him. These words are so important for our own day.

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## Food for your Journey

In *Secrets of the Vine* (33-36), Bruce Wilkinson shares an insight that he learned from a vineyard owner in Southern California: “New branches have a natural tendency to trail down and grow along the ground, but they don't bear fruit down there. When branches grow along the ground, the leaves get coated in dust. Then when it rains, they get muddy and mildewed, and the branch becomes sick and useless.”

“What do you do?” asked Wilkinson, “Cut it off and throw it away?”

“Oh, no!” he exclaimed. “The branch is much too valuable for that. We go through the vineyard with a bucket of water, looking for those branches. We lift them up and wash them off. Then we wrap them around the trellis or tie them up. Pretty soon they're thriving.”

“... For the Christian, sin is like dirt covering the grape leaves. Air and light can't get in. The branch languishes, and no fruit develops ... When the branches fall into the dirt, God doesn't throw them away or abandon them. He lifts them up, cleans them off, and helps them flourish again.”

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## Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the wisdom to remain close to You whether it be the good times or the times of struggle. May I always remember that You are my nourishment and the source of my life. Amen.

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