



March 23, 2025 • Alicia Bruxvoort + Anna Beck

BIG IDEAS:

The fruit of the spirit isn't something we DO for Christ; it's who we become because of Christ.

The Fruit of the Spirit isn't produced through striving; it's the outcrop of abiding.

Holy Spirit helps us stay present to the presence of Jesus

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Galatians 5:22-25

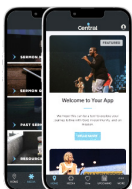
John 15:1-12

Genesis 1:27

John 8:31

John 14:23-26

2 Thessalonians 3:5



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1. In **GALATIANS 5:25**, Paul urges us to “keep in step with the Spirit” in order to be transformed into the image of Jesus. This is a picture of close relationship, not try-hard striving. Are you more comfortable with the idea of “striving” or “abiding” to grow in Christ-likeness? Why?
2. Consider the ways your own relationship with Jesus has grown and transformed you. Share a story of how you've changed as a result of being connected to Jesus. You may want to use the words “I once was _____ and now, because of Jesus, I am _____”.
3. **Menō** means *to dwell/abide, to continue to be present, to be held, kept, continually, to stay*. What, if anything, makes it difficult to stay present to Jesus throughout your day? Share what practices, tools, or “hacks” you have that help you remain intentionally connected to Jesus day by day.
4. How can prayer help you remain connected to Jesus throughout the day? Read through the prayers found in **ROMANS 15:5-6, EPHESIANS 1:15-23, EPHESIANS 3:14-21, PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11, COLOSSIANS 1:9-14**. In what specific way is Paul is praying for growth in God's people. Which of these prayers resonates most deeply with you right now? Why?
5. Remaining in God's Word is paramount to deepening your relationship with Jesus and learning to hear his voice, both on and off the pages of Scripture. Read **JOHN 14:25-26**. How does the Holy Spirit help us stay present to God's word even when our Bibles aren't open? Have you ever had a time when the Spirit has reminded you of something Jesus said? If you're comfortable, share about that moment.
6. Remaining in Jesus' love requires perseverance. Think of people you know who have persevered in their love for Jesus even when it was difficult to keep showing up and sticking with it. What have you learned from their example? If you'd rather, share a time when you persevered in loving Jesus even when it was difficult.
7. Jesus is clear in **JOHN 15:1-4** that if we bear fruit we will also be pruned so that we can keep growing and living fruitful lives. In our seasons of pruning, it's tempting to feel like God is against us or doesn't care. But there's nothing further from the truth: Pruning is an act of deeply committed care. Beth more wrote in her book *Chasing Vines*: “Nothing is more painful to the branch than pruning and nothing is more irresponsible for the vinedresser than avoiding it.”
 - A. What aspects of God's character are important to call to mind when you are in a pruning season? Why?
 - B. What promises from Scripture encourage you in a pruning season?
 - C. Think of someone you know who is in a pruning season right now. How can you encourage that person? What part of God's heart might that person need to experience through your hands and feet right now?
8. Part of connecting deeply with Jesus is enjoying Him. Right now, what do you enjoy most about Jesus?
9. How can we pray for you this week?