



Doing Life With Jesus

John 15:4 (NIV)

“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.”

Reflection Questions:

- 1) How are you experiencing the joy of Christ in your life??
- 2) Is there an area of your life you struggle to share because it's too painful?
- 3) What steps can you take in your life that will nurture your walk with Christ?



Extended Devotion:

Close your eyes and think about your best friend - the one person you cannot imagine doing life without. Do you have the picture? Good. Whether it's your spouse, family member, or best girlfriend, you probably cannot imagine doing life apart from them. They encourage you in joyful seasons as well as painful ones. You share laughter and tears. You do life together. You know, there's another friend the Bible says that sticks closer than a brother. Jesus is the Ultimate Best Friend to do life with.

Doing life with Jesus means pursuing Him daily and dwelling in His presence. This act of abiding produces beautiful fruit that only the Everlasting Vine can provide. Sometimes, that also means unpacking some painful things we often try to avoid. But there is hope! The pruning process that we talked about is often uncomfortable but the results are beautiful. **Without pruning, we can't see the fruit.** If we want the beautiful fruit, we must pursue the act of abiding. This means tuning into God. We must realize that we can do nothing apart from God. There is a sweet comfort in knowing that we don't need to do life on our own.

As we learn to abide in Christ and daily live life with Him, we lean more on Him. We trust Him more. We feel His presence and joy in our lives. Then, we are able to share that with others. In difficult seasons we often feel lost and alone. But, the more we do life with Jesus, the more fruit we bear. This fruit is a mighty confirmation of our faith, our identity in Christ.

John 15:8 says, *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.* When we continue abiding and bearing fruit, we glorify God and show the world that we follow Him.

Application:

1. Abiding in Christ means daily seeking His face. Write down one step you can take to make this commitment to draw closer to Him.

2. We can't bear fruit if we're not abiding in Christ. This often involves pruning away the things that keep us from having a relationship with Him. List 1-2 things that need some pruning. Pray, give them over to Christ's control, and press deeper into His presence.

Takeaway:

Doing life with Jesus includes painful pruning but it always yields beautiful fruit.

