

**18 February 2018**

## **LEARNING TO ABIDE**

**Scripture: John 15 v 7 (NKJV)**

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

In John 15 Jesus uses the figure of the True Vine and its Branches to describe His relationship with the disciples, "I am to you what the vine is to the branches."

**John 15 v 1 - 8 (NKJV)**

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

For one thing it means that the branch must accept the vine's purpose for its existence.

Obviously the purpose of the branch is to bear fruit! In itself, the branch has NO value. The fact is, apart from bearing fruit, the branch cannot justify its existence. The branch is good for only one thing - bearing fruit.

**Verse 16:**

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.