

## **Fruits of Labor for God**

† **John 15:5** *I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

Drawing on a comparison that the disciples readily understood, Jesus calls himself the vine. In this reference, he tells Christians that he is the supplier of all spiritual needs. While you are focused on Jesus, and learning all you can about him, you are remaining in him. Just as a vine gives sap to the branches so that they grow, so Jesus gives you his Word so that you grow, seeking to serve him and not yourself.

Such actions of service to Christ are deeds of sanctification. In keeping with his analogy, Jesus says your actions produced by faith are like fruit of the vine. The purpose of the branches is to produce fruit. So, as a branch of Jesus, you produce fruits of faith. What are examples of such fruits? In general, you can say those things which glorify God are all fruits of faith.

† **1 Corinthians 10:31** *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

All your actions and words that glorify God are part of those fruits. Other places in Scripture list specific actions and attitudes which reflect love for God, and are thus fruits of faith. Jesus promises you will bear much fruit. On this side of heaven, you can't fully escape your sinfulness, so it may seem at times that the much fruit isn't happening. That doesn't mean you give up. But rather, staying connected to Jesus, you are daily encouraged by the Word to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. That continued and growing connection to Jesus produces much fruit. Live in him, with him, for him.

***Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.***