





## The Gardener, Vine and branches

Part 1: John 15:1-8

## The Gardener, Vine and Branches



## Background





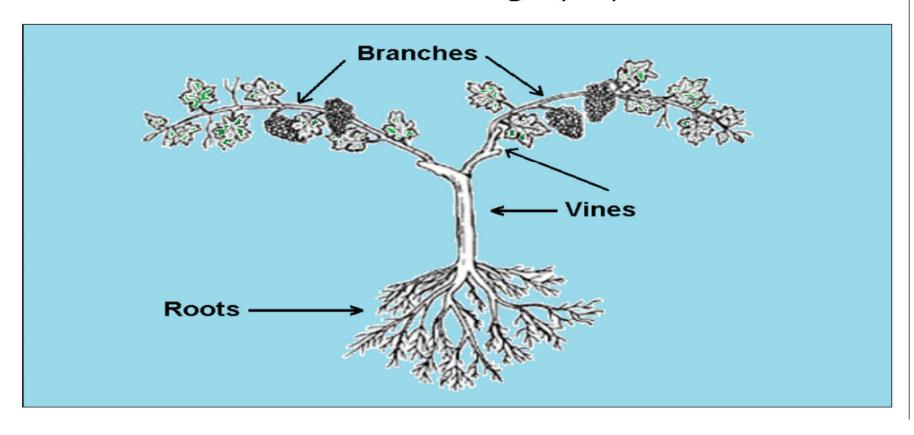
## Background



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## Introduction: The grape plant



John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. "

This is the modern definition of a gardener.

A gardener is the person who has the skill to maintain the garden's design. The gardener's labor during the year include planting, watering, weeding, pruning, grafting, removal of dead leaves and branches, mixing and preparation of insecticides and other products for treating pests, and harvesting.

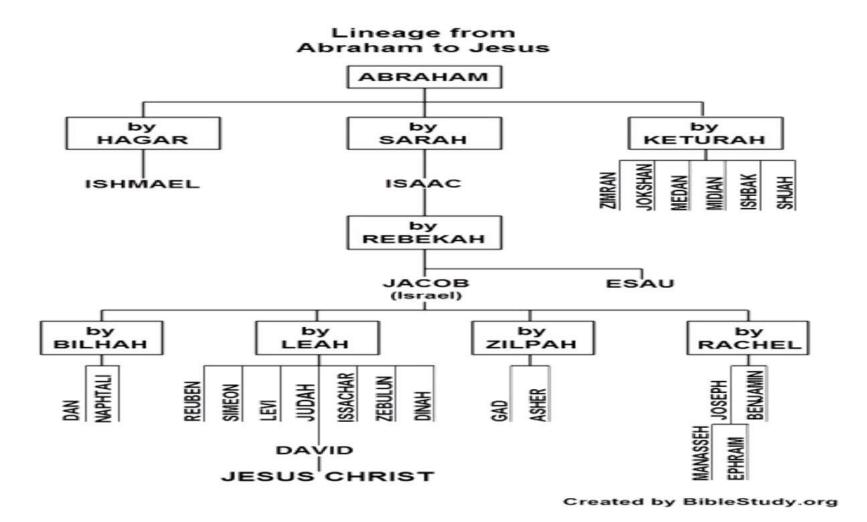
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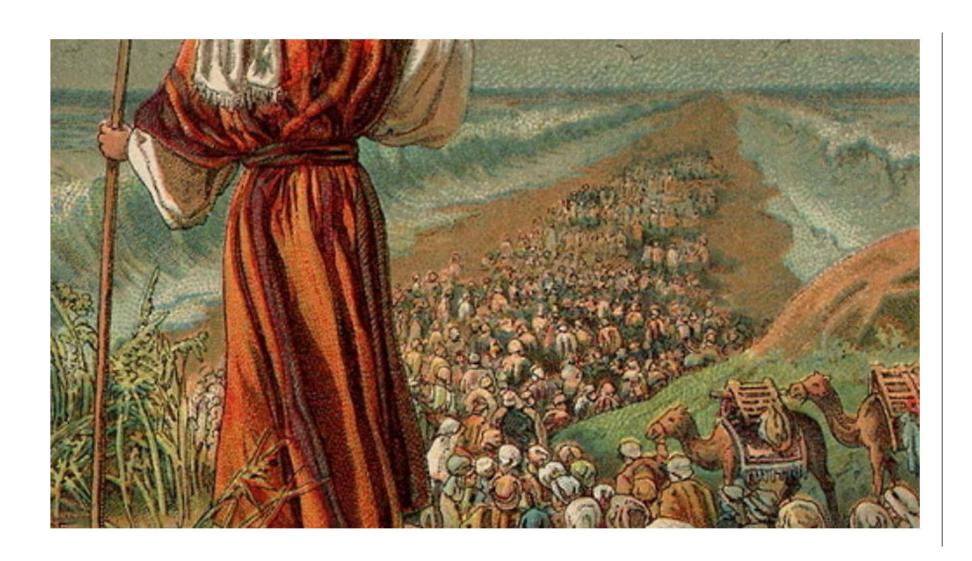
**How God is our Gardener?** 

A. The Gardener's Design

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."











#### B. The Gardener's Maintenance

John 15:2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

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Luke 9:23-24

23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it."

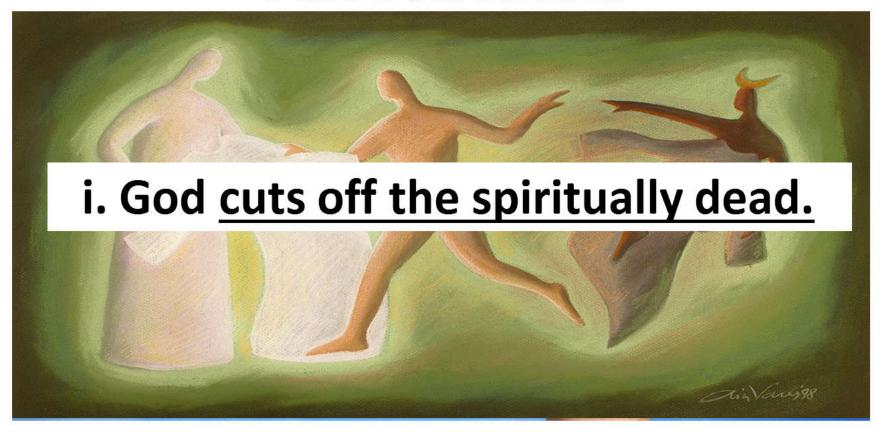
1 John 2:15-16 (NIV)

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.



Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)
13 The Lord says: "Thes

13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."



- B. The Gardener's Maintenance
- Pruning John 15:2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

#### B. The Gardener's Maintenance

Pruning

The gardener would prune back some plants in order for the plant to flourish, bear fruits and encourage growth.



#### **B.** The Gardener's Maintenance

Pruning



#### **B.** The Gardener's Maintenance



## ii. God molds us when we let Him.



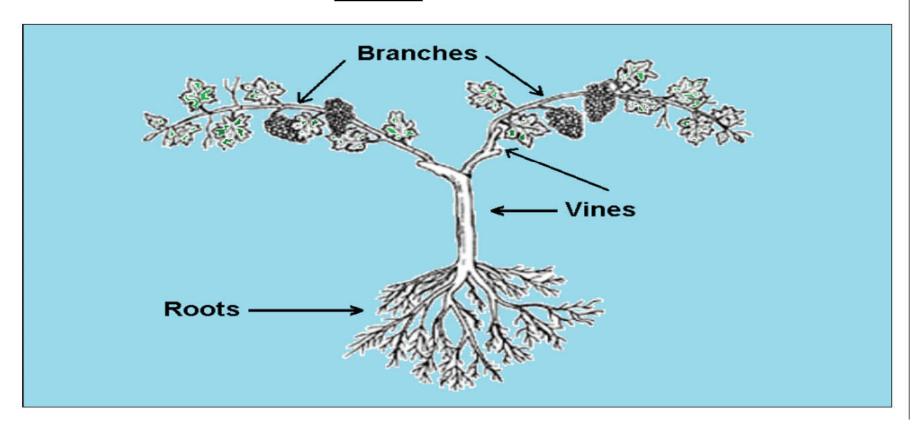
#### I. The Gardener

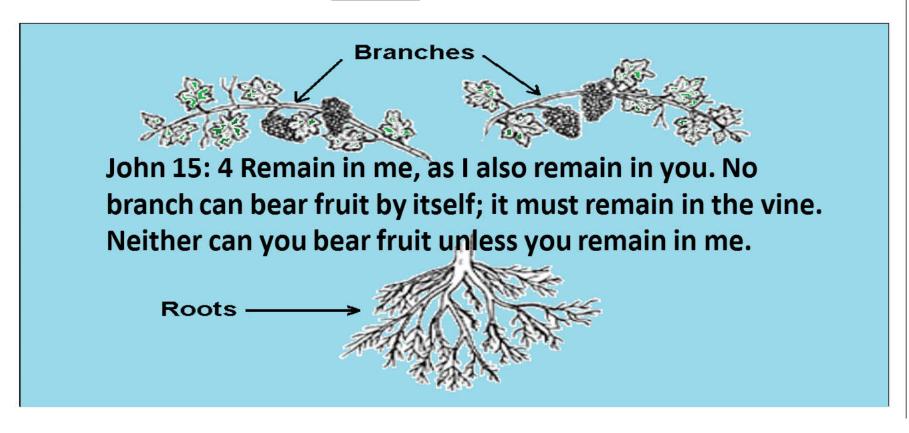
#### **B.** The Gardener's Maintenance

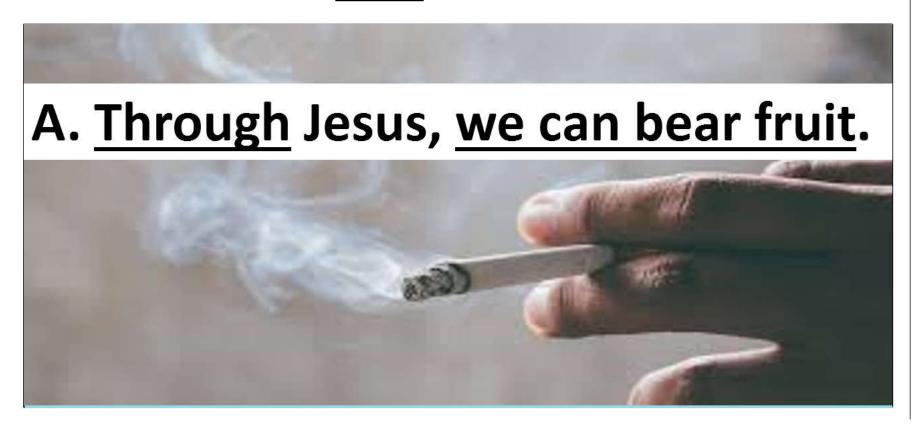
John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

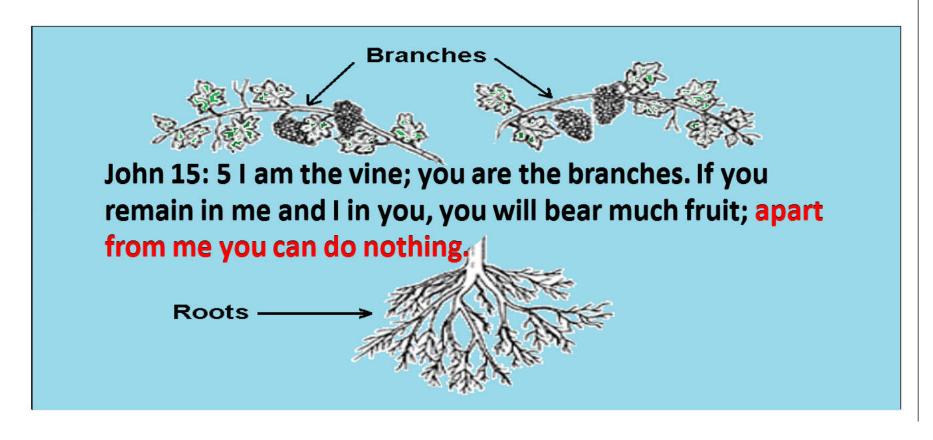
## iii. God <u>prunes undesirable</u> elements.

















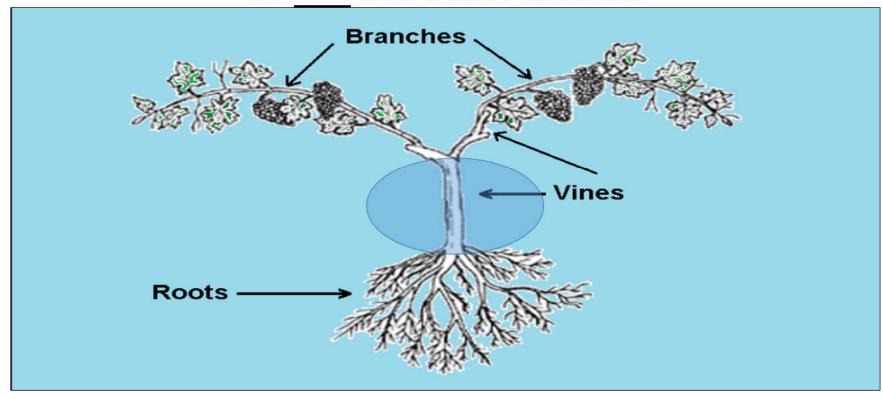


# B. Without Jesus, we can do nothing.



John 15: 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.



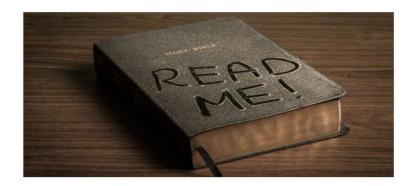




Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Proverbs 2:1-8



#### Proverbs 2:1-8

1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding - indeed, 3 if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.



Mark 5:19

Jesus said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you."

#### III. The Branches

Matthew 22:37-40

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#### III. The Branches

#### Galatians 5:22-25

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

John 13:35 - By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.



#### III. The Branches

A. Abide in Jesus, <u>and follow His</u> ways.

If we do not abide in Jesus, <u>we are</u> cast into the fire.

John 15:7 If you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

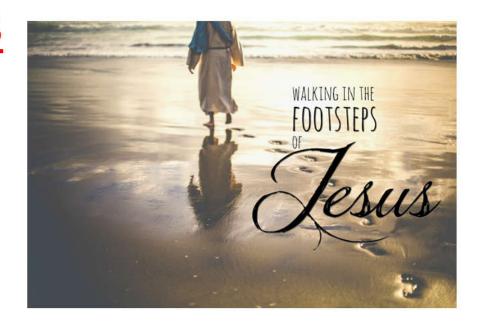
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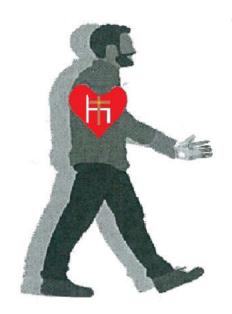
# B. Ask and it will be done, <u>IF we</u>

abide in Jesus

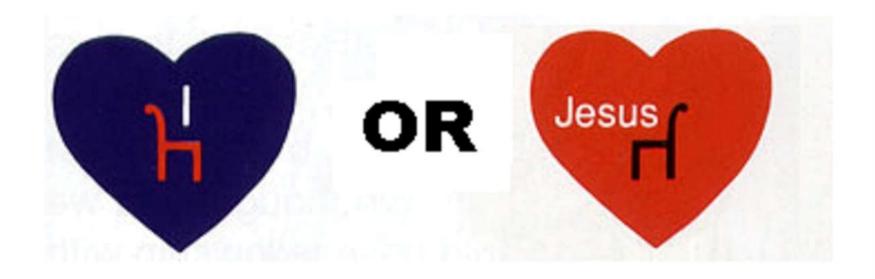




**The Growing Disciple** 



Jesus is to sit on the throne in our heart.



Are you driving your life or is Jesus?

John 15:8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



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# C. We bear fruit, <u>for God's Glory</u>, not ours.



# The Gardener, Vine and Branches



#### **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

What can we learn from the passage about the Gardener, the Vine and the branches?

- 1) God is our Gardener
  - a) He has a plan to prosper us.
  - b) We need to put our trust in Him.
- 2) Jesus is the Vine.
  - a) Without Him, we can do nothing.
- 3) We the disciples are the branches.
  - a) We need to abide in Jesus.
  - b) Follow His instructions and obey His commands.