

Getting on Praying Around - John 15: 1-8

Intro: vs 7, 8 come at the climax of discussion of fruitfulness - apart from fruitfulness I can't justify my existence as a Xian -

The fruitfulness of the branch is seen in asking + receiving - we can only fulfill our calling to bear much fruit as we ask + receive.

That being true, the great question is - How can I get on praying ground. Two things determine the answer to any prayer ① according to ②'s will - prayer ② + the pray-er

- It is the life that prays - no man is greater than his prayer life + no prayer life is greater than the man - "what a man is in his prayer closet is what he is!"

Two Conditions

I - ABIDING IN CHRIST - is to live the life of

a branch 1 - a Branch exists solely for the use of the vine = wood of vine worthless = no good for bearing fruit, vine = look upon self as branch

2 - a Branch is available = absolutely at disposal of vine. X can do what he pleases w/ me -

Psalm 37:4 - all great intercessors have been men who lived branch life = Abel, Moses, Paul, Jesus - I could do what ever I wanted w/ them - can't expect to pray for others to yield to & unless you are.

Can't live for Self + Pray

- 3 Truths
- 1 - apart from fruitfulness can justify existence
  - 2 - fruitfulness depends on abiding
  - 3 - abiding is expressed in a life of continual prayer

II - MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU -

1 - His words are to control us = obedience - 1 John 3: 24

2 - His words cleanse us - v.3 John 17: 17

- Pruning = cutting away useless branches - Psalm 66: 18
- must deal w/ sins in your life - James 5: 18
- Every time cut off are reducing the wood, less wood, less of self -
- I is the Husbandman = He does the Pruning - you submit yourself + He'll see to it you are pruned + Purged!