



You are a Branch before you are a Body part

The revelation of Jesus Christ is progressive. God sovereignly orders the revelation he gives so that wisdom is established and his purposes come to fruition. Before God burned the top of mount Sinai with Moses he appeared to him in a burning bush the spoke Hebrew. There was an increase of revelation and with revelation comes responsibility. The revelation of the burning bush caused Moses to go and deliver God's people. The fire and glory on the mountain was to give God's people his Law. I want to touch on these points directly as they relate to Jesus and the body of Christ. Paul deeply goes into the fact that we are the body of Christ. We must be useful members, understanding that we really need Jesus and one another, in that order. Remember the first commandment is to love God and the second is to love your neighbor. The revelation that we are the body of Christ is amazing. This revelation is awesome but it was after Jesus said, *"I am the Vine and you are the branches"*. If we don't fully understand and live what Jesus said Paul's revelation of us being a body will not be played out correctly. Revelation is ordered and not haphazardly, because it comes from God and he is eternally wise. When we are not getting life directly from the Vine himself, church looks more like a circus or a chicken with it's head cut off than a people who Jesus will marry for eternity.

Believers must deeply learn how to get everything that they need from Jesus. The only mediator between man and God is the God man Christ Jesus who triumphed over death and hell. I have friends that have learned that and when I

hang out with them it's actually fun to be with them. When our branches get life from Jesus we will overflow with sap or anointing. When we are full we naturally overflow, when we are needy spiritually we naturally find faults in everyone. We begin gossip and spend our time trying to fix people who don't know they are broken instead of actually going to those who acknowledge their need for help. There are many other symptoms of not getting life directly from the Vine and being empty and needy. I will not go into all of them.

I want to briefly touch upon the issue of getting life directly from the Vine. Jesus said, "*my words are spirit and they are life*", we get life by hearing the same way that faith comes by hearing. A life full of faith simply goes places, *we walk by faith and not by sight*, but Faith will lead you somewhere to actually do something. It starts by hearing life and then faith is imparted and as we go and obey God is pleased. The reason he is pleased is because we gain experiential knowledge of him when we listen and obey. Then he manifests himself to us and to those around us who really need him. A great way to be deceived is to just keep listening to God and good sermons and do nothing with them. We, as believers, bear fruit when we consistently obey. God speaks, we obey and he manifests himself. This process is very similar to a branch bearing fruit from the vine. The sap consistently goes from the vine to the branches until in the right season of time fruit appears.

As a child is growing up he or she is potty trained. Meaning the parents teach the boy or girl to go to the bathroom, wipe and to properly clean. This is very necessary because the parent won't be there in third grade to wipe the child's rear end. I am sad to say the Lord is always cleaning up our mess because many of us

have not grown up. Sometimes we are like babies who crap our pants and cry all night at a prayer meeting, but often we neglect the maturing process. The maturing process starts as we yield. When we yield or surrender then God can speak to us and instruct us. However, if we don't yield our lives to God, families and churches become like bumper cars. Bumper cars are great at a go-cart course, but on an interstate highway bumper cars could be dangerous and even deadly. The need to mature is crucial; it's a life and death matter. God prepares us to mature by nurturing us. Being breastfed as a child is great, but as an adult it's bizarre. In a sense that's how many of us look in the spiritual world. We truly need help.

God in his grace and patience is very willing to help if we are willing to listen. He is our counselor, but if we are not listening he is not counseling. The way we can learn to listen is by being thankful. When we become thankful, then our attention is set on Jesus. When we position ourselves toward him he is sure to speak to us. One of the reasons God goes silent is because we set our attention and affections on other things. This is called idolatry. Putting things and people before God will cause people to stop hearing from God. When God is first in our life it is easy to hear him.

You get life by listening. Listening skills are acquired over time. When someone is quick to interrupt someone naturally they don't have good listening skills. Ask me how I know. This natural problem is a spiritual problem. Meaning this natural problem overflows into their relationship with God and deeply affects their relationship or lack of healthy relationships with people who are created in God's image. One of the manifestations of a reprobate mind is people can't listen to other people. The mind will either be reprobate or renewed, we choose. We must

remember as we approach the Holy Scriptures that we have the mind of Christ. When God speaks, our heart is softened and our minds are renewed. When our minds are renewed we can hear God even when he is silent. My prayer, for both you and I, is that we position ourselves in humility to have tender hearts and open ears so that our minds are renewed and we live lives pleasing unto God.

By: Adam LiVecchi

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