

Dead Branches

John 15:1-8

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

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.

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

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

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.

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.

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Consider 4 DEAD BRANCHES that God might need to cut off from our lives in order to GROW SPIRITUALLY.

1. Branch of DEAD RELATIONSHIPS

- Luke 9:59-60

59 He said to another man, “Follow me.” But the man replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” 60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

- 2 Corinthians 6:14

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

2. Branch of DEAD REGIONS

- 2 Corinthians 6:17-18

17 Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

- 2 Corinthians 7:1

1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

3. Branch of DEAD RITUALS

- Mark 7:5-8

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?” 6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. 8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

4. Branch of DEAD RESPONSES

- Proverbs 18:21

21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- Numbers 13:31-32

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are. 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they explored.

- Numbers 14:4

4 And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”