

Essential Steps For This Week

Day 1 – Read John 15:1-17

What does it mean for you to remain in Christ?
How can you practice this truth today?

Day 2 – What does intimacy mean to you?

Does God seem close to you?
What words has He spoken to you lately?

Day 3 – How will your life count?

Meditate on John 15:5-9
Are you truly His disciple?

Day 4 – Read Galatians 5:22-23 and John 15:9-13.

What fruit is recognized in your life?
Can you have joy regardless of you life's circumstances?

Day 5 – Read John 15:14-17

Write a simple prayer to Jesus thanking Him for His
friendship and partnership in His mission for your life.

Essentials

October 7, 2007

“Essential Ingredients”

Essential Value: We value Continual Prayer as a life-sustaining connection to God - essential for developing a strong relationship with Him. Prayer is our intimate and direct access to God. He welcomes us to call on Him with the promise that He will reveal Himself to us. In our willingness to listen we hear God's direction.

Essential verses: “*pray continually*,” 1 Thes. 5:17

⁷ “*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*” ⁸ *For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.* Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.* ⁸ *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*
John 15:7-8 (NIV)

Essential Sentence: Prayer is our intimate and direct access to God.

15 “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, and I will 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 a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is 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 given you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other. John 15:1-17

Essential Thoughts:

God has chosen us for three vital relationships

1. Relationship with Jesus Christ v.1-10
to remain.
2. Relationship(s) with each other v.11-17
to love.
3. Relationship to the world v.18-16:-4
to testify.

In our relationship with Jesus Christ we find intimacy (v.3-5) and direct access (v.6-8) (Hebrews 10:19-22, Romans 5:1-2)

Essential Truth:

The true vine is willing to supply whatever we need to produce the most fruit in our lives.

God is glorified when our lives produce much fruit.

(fruit progression: v,2-fruit, v.2-more fruit, v.5,8-much fruit)

What’s supplied internally is revealed externally in our relationship to God and to others.

Four Essential Ingredients:

1. His Word v.7
2. His Love v. 9-10
3. His Joy v. 11
4. His Mission v. 16