

NORTH WAY

notes outline

JOHN SERIES
JUNE 27/28

JOHN 15:1-11

4 FAITH REALITIES FROM LIVING IN THE TRUE VINE:

1. The source of everything we need comes from Christ - not us.

- *Hebrews 12:2 NIV84* - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- *2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV* - For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

2. We have a permanent eternal address in Jesus.

- *Galatians 2:20 ESV* - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- *Philippians 3:20a ESV* - But our citizenship is in heaven...
- *How I abide includes:*
 - Prayer* - I go to His throne before I go to my phone.
 - Word* - I let His will direct my way, wonder, and worries.
 - Community* - I strive for accountability over anonymity.

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3. Our clear purpose is to bear fruit to glorify God.

- *Galatians 5:22 ESV* - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
- Only one life that soon will pass, only what’s done for Christ will last. - C.T. Studd
- People may spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall. - Thomas Merton
- *Philippians 3:8* - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have *suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*
- Fruit is not a test, but by-product overflowing from our abiding in Christ.

4. Our proper growth only comes through God’s loving pruning.

- “The vinedresser is never closer to the vine, taking more thought over its long-term health and productivity, than when he has the knife in his hand.” - N.T. Wright, John for Everyone
- *Jeremiah 29:11 NIV* - 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.
- **He often prunes us through:**
 - **His Word**
Hebrews 4:12 ESV - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - **Trials, Disappointments, and Seasons of Waiting**
James 1:2-4 ESV - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

As we choose to be in the Vine, these faith realities open the door to experiencing the rock-solid confidence of His full joy!

- *Nehemiah 8:10b ESV* - ...and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.
- *1 Peter 1:8b ESV* - ...you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

