



Vine - Gardener - Branches - Fruit
 Jesus The Father Christians Good Works



“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.”

John 15:5

REMAIN

- Keep as it is
- Keep where it is

STRIVE? This isn't about working harder.
 That is not how *much fruit* happens in the long run.

STAY INVESTED
 \$100 to \$20,000 stay in the market



A command because it isn't natural.

STAY!
 Rewards - Reminders - Trust - Natural

Remain connected to Jesus!



ENCOUNTER QUESTIONS

Spiritual Growth Small Groups at Emmanuel Reformed Church

What do you think about the sermon? What stood out to you?

There is a difference between striving after fruit and striving after Jesus. Consider these verses which encourage strive:

1 Timothy 4:8-10, 6:11-12 Philippians 3:12-14, Matthew 6:33

What are we to strive for and how?

If “remain” is given as a command, that means it is something we actively do. Over the years I have developed a list of seven practices which should be part of a Christians life. Each can draw us closer to God and shape our faith in good ways.

Think about how each one could help you REMAIN, but also consider how they could become striving after much fruit.

WAYS TO REMAIN IN JESUS

1. Daily time with God (Bible and prayer)
2. Weekly time with Christians (worship)
3. Regular giving (Tithing builds trust)
4. Healthy family relationships (practice)
5. Forgiveness of others (obeying Jesus)
6. Serving where God calls (open to fruit)
7. Sharing about Jesus to others (multiply)

How is God calling you to strengthen your connection to Christ?

KIDS – Write one important thing you heard in the sermon.