

## SERMON NOTES

Series: Building Upon the Firm

Foundation of God's Word

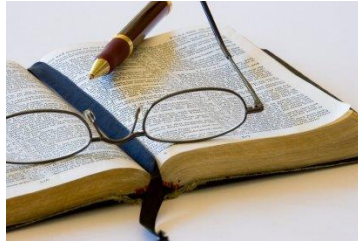
Title: By Understanding the  
Meaning of a Passage (IV)

Text: John 15:1-17

Topic: How to do a Good Bible Study

Teacher: Pastor Barry. Time: 8/21/22

File Under: Christian Living



*"If anyone doesn't remain in me, he's like a branch that's thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."* John 15:6

Rules of Interpretation...

1. Consider the historical context.
2. Define the key words.
3. Interpret unclear verses with clear ones.
4. Look for the most obvious meaning.

The purpose of a fruit tree is to **bear fruit**. Branches disconnected from the fruit tree are no good, except for **firewood**.

*"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you!"* John 5:7 He's talking about **prayer**.

### 1. Remaining in Christ produces **answered prayers**.

*Prayer can do anything that God can do!*

You can **thank** God for unanswered prayer because God, in His infinite wisdom, has something **better** in mind.

When you pray, don't ask God for what **you** think is good for you. Ask God for what **He** thinks is good for you.

*"I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."* (14:13)

### 2. Answered prayer **brings glory** to God.

When I pray and ask for things and then God gives it to me, it brings glory to God because it shows how **loving God is**.

*"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete!"* (16:24)

### 3. Answered prayer gives me **complete joy!**

Over twenty times in the New Testament we are commanded to **ask**. *"You have not because you ask not."* James

Jesus, in his final words says, I want you to **ask in prayer**. When you don't pray, you don't **hurt God**, you **hurt yourself**.

#### BEARING FRUIT

comes by remaining in Christ, brings glory to God,  
gives me complete joy.

#### ANSWERED PRAYER

comes from remaining in Christ, brings glory to God,  
gives me complete joy.

*"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!"* (15:16)

I bear fruit by **asking in prayer**. Prayer is the **password** to everything God wants to do in your life.

God does not want prayer to be your **spare tire**. He wants it to be the **steering wheel**.

*Much prayer, much fruit.  
Little prayer, little fruit.  
No prayer, no fruit.*