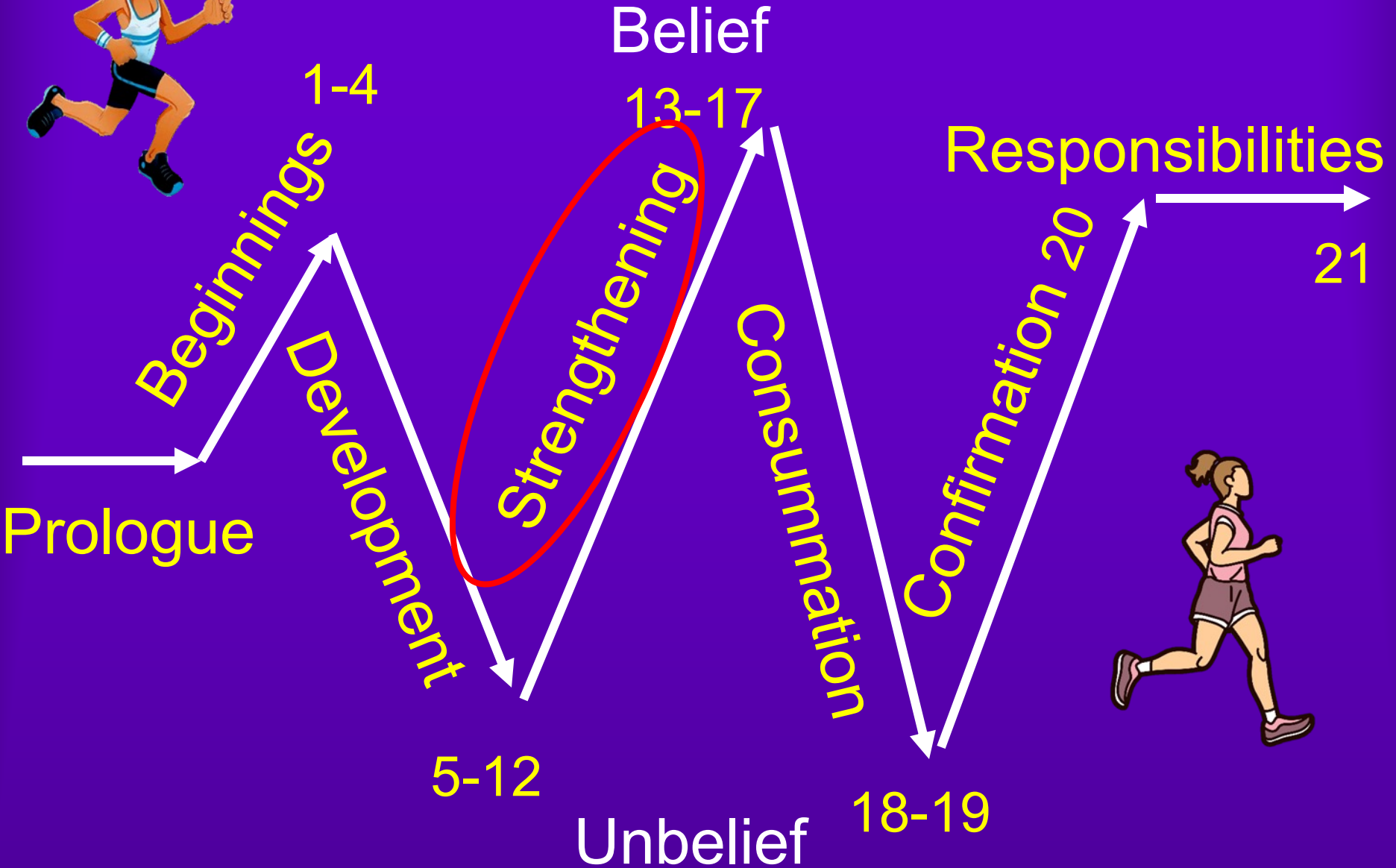




A Disciple's Fruitfulness

John 15:1-11

Jogging Through John



Strengthening of Belief 13-17

Strengthening belief
in preparation for
Christ's death and the
disciples ministry.



Belief Builders







Fruitfulness in the Christian life results from abiding in Christ.



Common OT figure
representing Israel

Isaiah 5:1-7

Jeremiah 5:10

Ezekiel 15:1-8

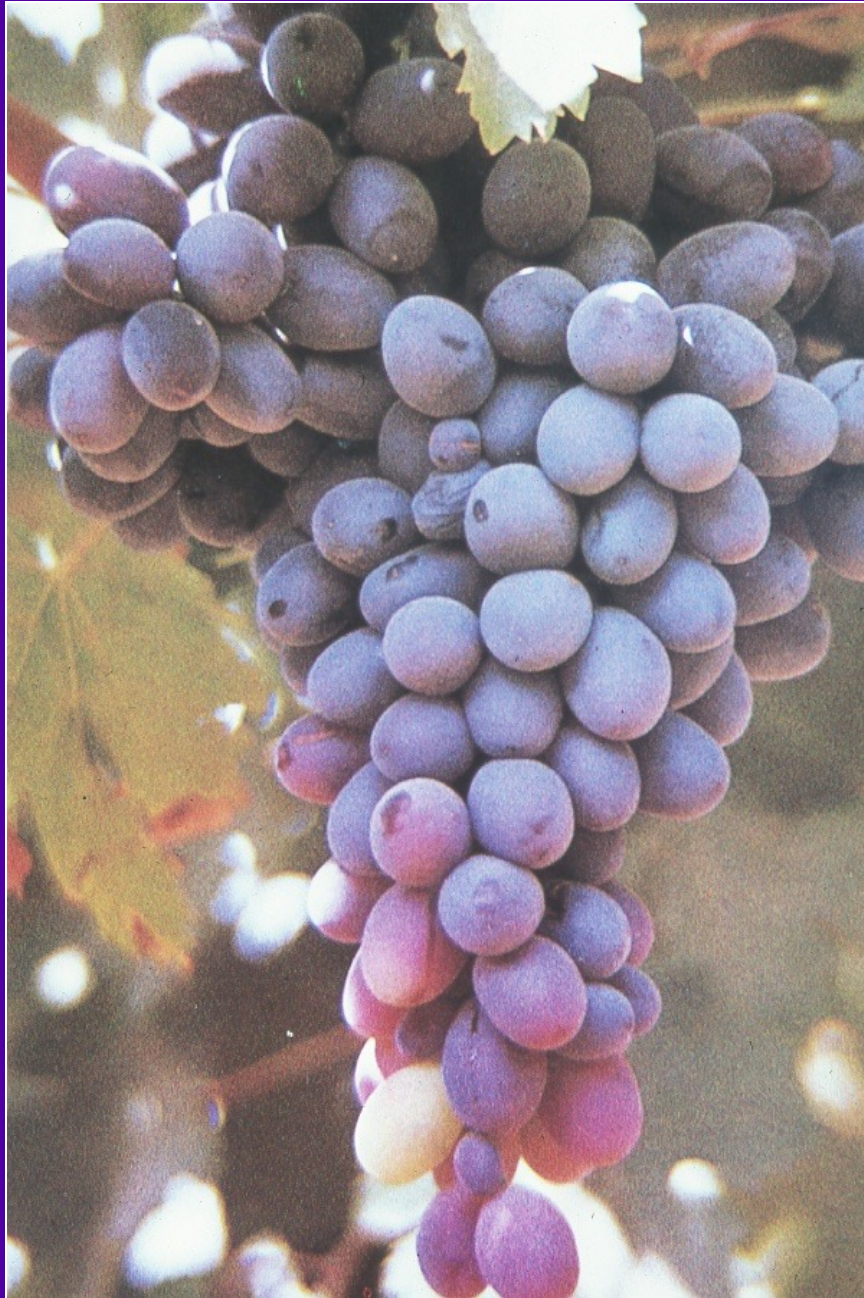
Psalms 80:1-16

Isaiah 5:1-7





Watch tower



"He expected
it to produce
good grapes,
but it
produced
only
worthless
ones."



A photograph of a stone wall in a rural landscape. The wall is constructed from irregular, light-colored stones and runs across the foreground. In the background, there is a grassy hill under a clear blue sky, with several trees scattered across the landscape. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

"I will break down its wall . .

"

"

"The vineyard of the Lord
is the house of Israel . . .

"

.



God's Dealings with a Fruitless Branch

“Go up through her vine rows and destroy, but do not execute a complete destruction; Strip away her branches, for they are not the Lord's.
Jeremiah 5:10

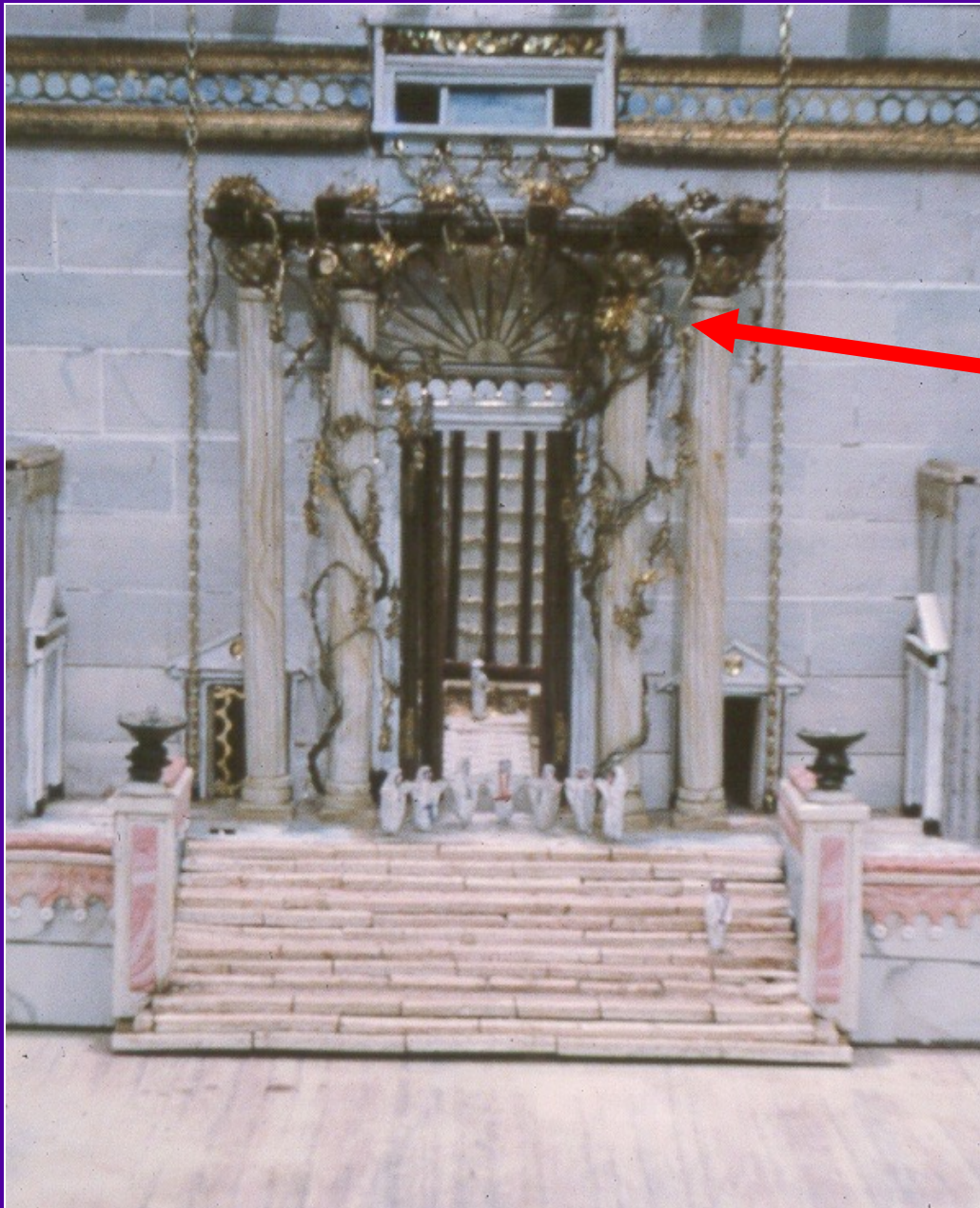


God's Dealings with a Fruitless Branch

“How is the wood of the vine better than any wood of a branch? Can wood (of a branch) be used for anything? Can men make a peg from it on which to hang a vessel? How much less when it is burned?”

Ezekiel 15:1-8





Golden Vine
over the
entrance of
the Temple

Josephus *Jewish
War* V. 210

The Analogy



- The Vine = Christ
- The Vinedresser = the Father
- The Branches = disciples (cf. 6:66)
 - Two kinds
 - Fruitbearing and fruitless

“Disciple” means “Learner”

Some disciples are *committed* followers of Jesus.

Others are *curious* listeners, who have not yet made a commitment to Jesus.



Two kinds of “Learners”

Two Kinds of “Branches”



Fruitful

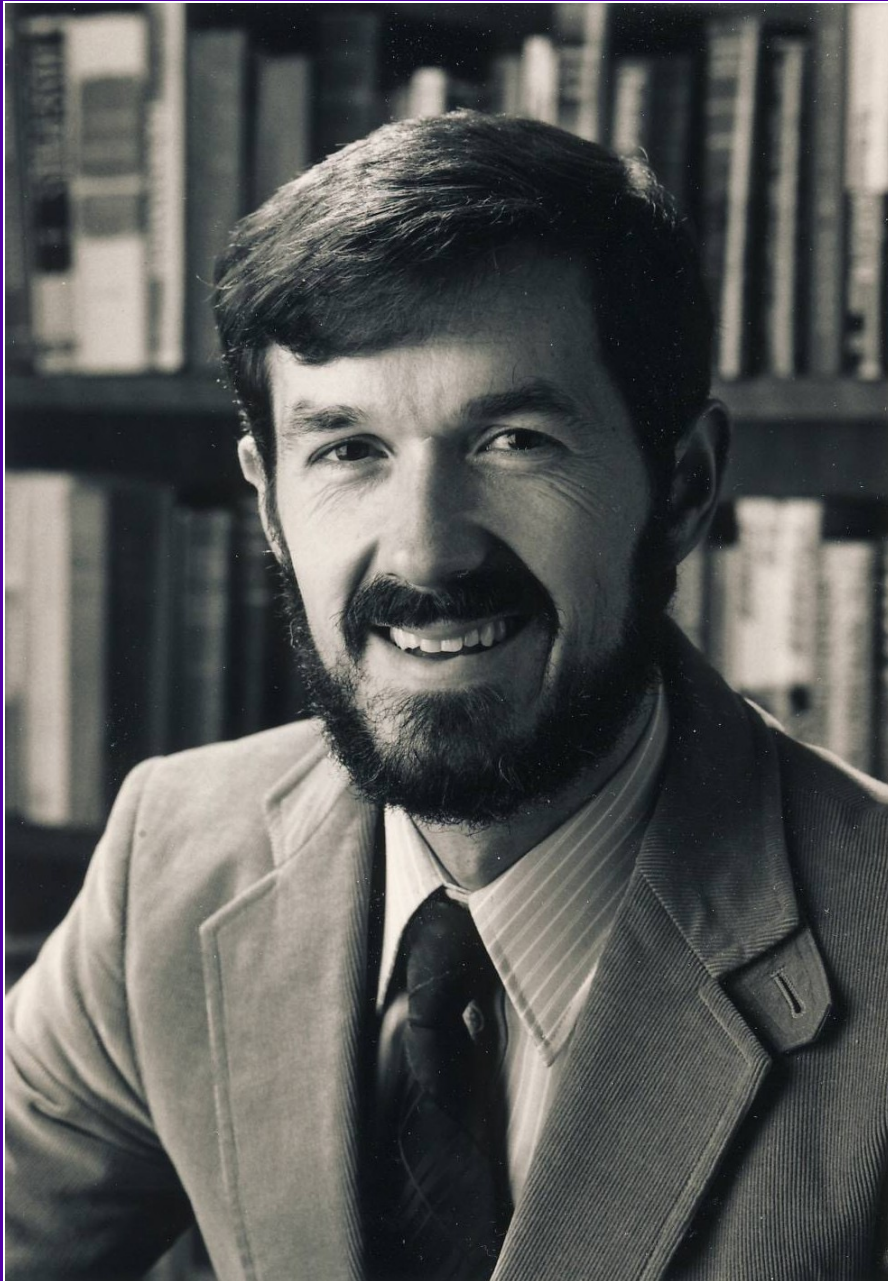


Fruitless

Fruitbearing branches are pruned



- *Kathairo* means to cleanse, purge, purify, cleanse by pruning.
- The gardener must cut away that which hinders the productivity of the vine.



Pruning is
painful, but
productive.

Instructor in Bible
Exposition

Dallas Theological
Seminary

1975-76

Pruning

“Pruning is the single – most important job you can do in a vineyard. What eventually ends up in a bottle of wine starts right here.”

Robin Murto, grape grower





“Pruning isn’t something that seems to intrigue people, but it’s absolutely critical. It is integral to the quality of the grapes. And if the quality isn’t there, you’re going to fail.” Dick Shea

Fruitless branches are removed.

- *Airo* means “to lift up; lift up and carry away, to remove.”
- No evidence from the culture for “lifting up” of the branches.
- The normal meaning is “remove.”

What happens to the fruitless branches?

- Loss of salvation?
- Divine discipline by death?
- Severed from superficial connection with Christ?



A fruitless branch is a
lifeless branch.



Fruitless branches are “thrown away” (15:6)



Something Jesus promised he'd never do to believers. John 6:37



“In Me”

- Adjectival: Modifying “every branch”
- Adverbial: Modifying “does not bear fruit.”
- “Every branch that does not bear fruit *in me*, He removes.”



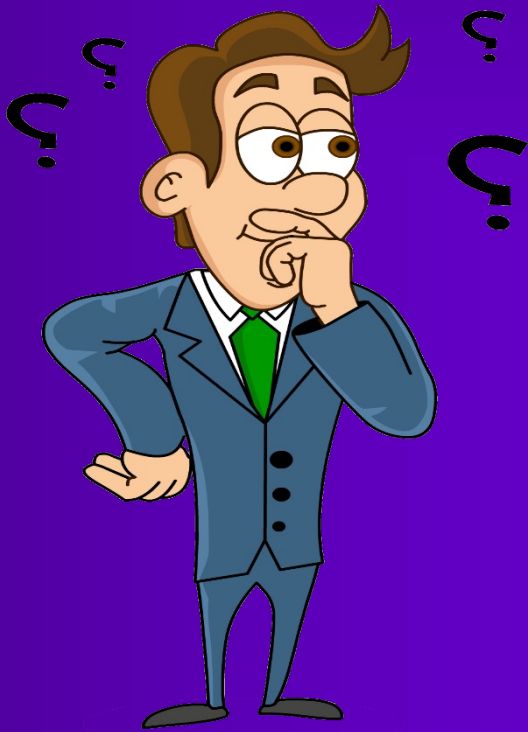
Belief is the connection which unites the vine and branches.

No Fruit = No Faith

Who are the Fruitless Branches?



The fruitless branches represent professing “Christians” who were *never* truly saved.



“Are you saying that there may be some people who have *professed* Christ and been baptized but are not genuine Christians?”

That's right!

Jesus said, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.”
(Matt. 7:19-20).





Even Simon the
sorcerer “believed”!

But was this a
regenerating
experience?
Acts 8:20-23

“Simon, the Great Power
of God”

What does it mean to abide?

Abiding is
virtually
believing!



*Belief is the connection that unites
the vine and branches!*

“Believed,” but not “Saved”

2:23 “believed” but “not believing.”

6:66 “withdrew,” “were no longer following Him.”

7:31 They “believed,” but not as the Messiah.

8:30,40 They “believed,” but were seeking to kill Him.”

I “believe” in Jesus!

I believe he is a good man!

I believe he is a moral teacher!

I believe he is a prophet!

I believe he is one (of many) ways to
God!



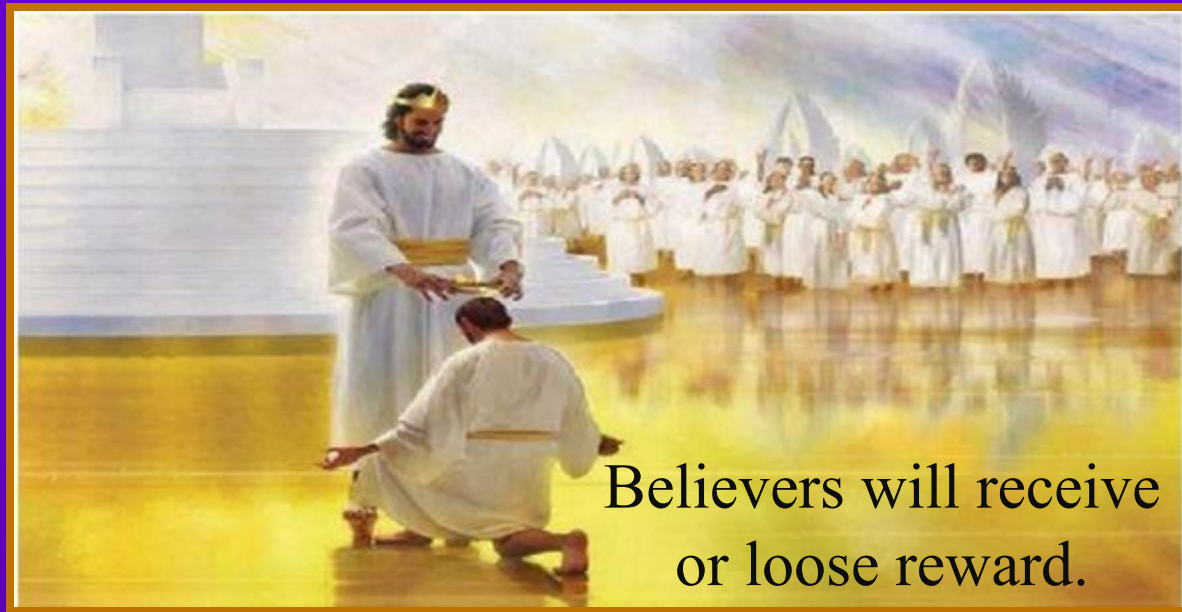
Results of Not Abiding *15:6*



What can you
do with dried
branches?

Judgment Seat of Christ

1 Cor. 3:13



No believer will undergo a judgment in which they themselves are burned.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



What is the “fruit”
of faith?

Fruit of the Spirit...
or new converts?



Fruits of Abiding

John 15:7-11



1. Effectual prayer
2. Glorifying God
3. Love for Christ
4. Obedience to Christ
5. Full joy



“I have appointed you that you should go and bear fruit ...” John 15:16



Fruit for my
breakfast table.

Even better, is our
fruitfulness in
Christ

