

January 5, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Ps. 1:1-3 *Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers. (NIV)*

One of the definitions of abundant is something or someone that is fruitful. Have you ever known someone that has a “green thumb?” It seems they could grow the largest tree in a pot of concrete. I come from a family of “green thumbs.” The problem is that mine is more like missing. I am ‘horticulture-ly’ challenged. I admit it. I can kill a potted plant in a matter of hours. I either over-water or under-water everything. I’m so glad that my Heavenly Father has a golden thumb. Everything He puts His hand to will flourish and bring forth fruit at just the right time.

So, because we are in the hands of the creator of all things, we can be assured that He will take care of us, protect us, provide for us, and make us fruitful as well. Sometimes this can be a bit painful. Jesus used the illustration of the gardener in **John 15:1-2** ***“I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. 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.”*** (NIV) The Lord knows what we need and what it will take to make us more like His Son. The key is to remain in Him. The word remain in **vv. 4-7** is the Greek word *meno* which means to abide or come to stay. The LORD doesn’t want us to come and visit Him from time to time. He wants us to stay and not leave. In the same way, He desires to abide in us, but He will not force Himself into our lives. This is pictured in **Rev. 3:20** ***Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.*** (NIV)

Dear LORD, help us abide in You and You in us. It is then and only then that we can be fruitful and useful in Your Kingdom’s work. Help us to be like the tree planted by the streams of living water. In Jesus Name, Amen