**“I Am the True Vine:**

**God’s Spiritual Nourishment & Power”**

1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 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.

(John 15:1-2 NIV)

* **The Vine** is Jesus Christ who provides spiritual nourishment and power to the Branch
* **The Branch** refers to Christians who accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
* **The Gardener** is God the Father who cares for the branches
* God’s intention for every Branch is:
* Is to produce fruit—John 15:2

 “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.”

* The spiritual production of every Christian is to grow from:
* **No fruit**—John 15:2 “that does not bear fruit”
* **Some fruit**—John 15:2 “every branch that bears fruit
* **Much fruit**—John 15:2 “He prunes, that it may bear more Fruit”
* **Remaining fruit**—John 15:16

**John 15:16**

 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

* The remaining Fruit is evidence of God’s Power in a believer’s life:
* Power for **True Discipleship**

**John 15:8**

 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

* The power of **service towards others** in the Kingdom of God

**1 Peter 4:10 (English Standard Version)**

 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace”

* The **power of demonstrating** the characteristics of the Holy Spirit

**Galatians 5:22-23**

 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

 23 gentleness, self-control…

“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.”

**John 15:2a**

* ***“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit”***
* Judgement Day
* The unfruitful branches were never believers.

**John 15:6**

"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

* **“*while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful*.”**
* God’s grace
* He prunes
* The Father moves all things in the believer’s life that hinder fruitfulness
* He cuts away sin in and around our lives
* He disciplines us—corrects us **(Hebrews 12:3-11)**
* God provides the means for deliverance
* God gave us His Son Jesus—the True Vine when He made His entry unto Jerusalem **(Matthew 21:8-11)**

 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

 10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

 11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”