



## *The Lord's Mountain Mover's* **NEWSLETTER**

*"If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."*  
(Matt. 17:20)

March 2017

Issue 0034

### **Brown Bananas**

How many of us have ever purchased bananas before and failed to eat them before they turned brown? Once they reach this stage they are unpleasant to look at, let alone eat. Fruit is best served and eaten when it is ripe and sweet. No one wants to eat spoiled fruit, and no one wants to be offered it either. The only thing worse than spoiled fruit is no fruit at all.

What does fruit have to do with Christianity? Everything! You might have some questions about this so here are some answers. We will begin with the following Scripture passage to answer some of your possible questions.

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch, cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* (John 15:1-5)

#### **Where does a Christian get his or her fruit?**

*"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch, cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me."* First, we will look at the negative, the inability to produce fruit. This portion of our Scripture tells us that a person cannot bear fruit by, or in-and-of themselves, there must be something outside of themselves helping to produce this fruit. Jesus says that there must be a co-habitation, (*"Abide in Me, and I in you,"*) between the person and Himself to bear this fruit. There is no other way. Just as a branch unattached from the plant cannot produce fruit, so a person detached from a relationship with Christ cannot bear fruit. (*"so neither can you unless you abide in Me."*)

Secondly, we will look at the positive aspect of this passage of Scripture. *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* Just a quick note, things that are repeated are repeated for emphasis. The last part of this verse reiterates the negative, *"for apart from Me you can do nothing."* These negative bookend

statements are an important part of the whole truth about fruit-bearing. In-between these statements we find the positive, *“he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit”*

Just as the negative is an absolute, so is the positive. Jesus doesn't say, you “might”, “should”, or “could” bear fruit through this co-abiding. He says, you won't if you don't, and you will if you do. Period! No room for argument or debate. Any person who has an active, intimate, personal relationship with God through Christ will bear fruit. No one can argue against the fact that Jesus bore fruit while here on earth. How did He do it? In the same way that we are to bear fruit, through a co-abiding. Remember in Jesus' prayer He said, *“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one.”* (John 17:20-22)

### **Who is in control of this fruit-bearing process?**

Once again, we will rely on our original passage to answer this question. *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.”* Here, we have Christ telling us that He is the vine and that His Father, our Heavenly Father, is the vinedresser. God is the One who either prunes or removes every branch. Those fruit-bearing branches, believers who are abiding in Christ, will be pruned so they can bear even more fruit. Our being one with Christ makes us one with God. Our Heavenly Father has a purpose in Christ and Christ a purpose in us. That purpose is to bear fruit.

I think the key for me in this verse is, *“so that it may bear more fruit.”* This tells me that whatever fruit I may be bearing now is less than my capability. If our Heavenly Father is not satisfied with the status-quo, then neither should I be. If I want to reach my maximum capability, then the only way for me to do that is by making sure that I am fully in Christ, and Him fully in me. Then I need to completely surrender myself to the changes that God is trying to perfect in me through Christ. The branch cannot rebel against the Vine it must be in complete submission just as Christ was in complete submission to the Father. Remember what Jesus prayed in the garden, *“Father, if thou wilt remove this cup from me: —but then, not my will, but thine be done.”* (Luke 22:42)

### **What kind of fruit does a Christian produce?**

I think the most evident fruit Christians bear is listed in the following Scripture passage. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, self-control: against such things there is no law.”* (Galatians 5:22-23) These nine things are evidence of the Holy Spirit living within a born-again believer. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a natural by-product of true salvation. The Spirit brings us many things and the undisputable evidence is born out in these nine things.

A person who oversees themselves will struggle to produce any one of these things, let alone all nine of them. A person who is Spirit lead and is actively abiding in Christ will find these things naturally occurring. I want to backtrack a bit and bring up the fact that God, through Christ, is continually pruning us so that we will bear more fruit. How many of us could deny that we might need just a little

more patience now and then? How about some more self-control, peace, or meekness? I know that I could use some more of these things from time to time.

### **Is Christian fruit seasonable?**

Christian fruit should not be seasonable but reasonable. I guess we could say that there is a season for meekness when the opposite raises its ugly head. Or maybe a portion of joy could be served up when sadness seems to be on the menu. Lastly how about lifting some love up when hatred is trying to tear down.

### **What is this fruit for?**

Our fruit should nourish us and others. What God does in Christ is not for Christ alone and what Christ does in us is not for us alone. Here is a little evidence for us to back up this position, *“I leave peace with you; I give my peace to you: not as the world gives do I give to you.”* (John 14:27) Jesus passed on His peace to us so it only stands to reason that we should do the same. The fruit that we bear should be beneficial to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. How are we to effectively portray Christ to others if we do not exhibit who He is in character and deed? We can't! Just like the old saying goes, “People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.” Let's not allow our fruit to spoil for lack of use. Let's also not let it spoil through selfishness or lack of motivation. Let's not look at our fruit and find nothing but brown bananas.

Lord, help us to remain alive and active in Your purposes for us. Help us to surrender daily to Your pruning process so we can be nourished and nourish others. Help us to effectively use those things You produce in us for Your glory and the glory of Your kingdom. Let our fruit be fresh, plentiful, and available as You will. Thank you for abiding in us and allowing us the wonderful and mysterious ability to abide in You. Amen.

In His service,

*Pastor Pete*

## **BE A BARNABAS**

Do you ever feel like you don't know what to do or what decisions to make? Ever wish that God would just let you know what He is doing so that you don't resist His will for your life? I know I do, and I always ask Him to let me know what we are doing and what He wants me to do.

*“A person's steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?”* (Proverbs 20:24)

When I read that Proverb, when I meditate on it, I realize that I may not always understand my way. I may not always understand the things that I am trying to do, nor why I am doing them. I think we need to remember that it is God who has great plans for us, to prosper us and bless us to be a blessing to others. When we get frustrated with things not going the way we planned, we need to regain our focus on to His plan. Many times, we have no

idea how He is going to work things out, where He is going to send us or who He is going to put into our lives. That is where our faith and reliance on Him is tested and strengthened once we see what He is doing. The hardest part is in the meantime, when we still have not a clue.

Right now, I am not waiting for a transfer, or waiting to find out who my new Bunkie will be. I know God has me where I am at for a reason. I know I just need to hang in there so I can find out what He is doing and what He wants me to do. Our situations may be different, but that feeling is still the same. I want to encourage you to *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;”* even as I am trying to do right now. I want to encourage you to be strong and be there for your brothers who might be going through this as well. Share your testimony with people God has put into your life, use it to encourage others.

*“In the Lord’s hand the king’s heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him.”* Proverbs 21:1

If God would cause the kings to bless us, I am certain that he could cause the judge, guard, boss, etc. to bless us as well. Let us be patient in the Lord, waiting for Him to reveal to us the plan for our life right now, and let us be a blessing to each other in the meantime. Amen.

Be blessed in Him,

*Brother Daniel Rodney*

### **We want you!**

That’s right; the Lord’s Mountain Movers Ministry wants you to be a bigger part of what we are doing in God’s kingdom. We have received several contributions for your newsletter and thank those of you who have taken the time to send your submissions. We hope that more of you will share some of the talents God has given to you through writing, drawing, etc. Keep them coming. If you send something you need to have back, we will be glad to return it to you, just let us know.



### *Our Prayer Requests for God’s Children*

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our newsletter through the mail. Due to financial constraints, we have revised the way we do our prayer requests. We are currently posting and maintaining all prayers requested on the Internet so your brothers and sisters all over the world can continue to pray for your petitions and praise God for the ones He has already answered.

We are encouraged by the work that God has already done through so many people praying for the needs of those they do not even know. What a privilege we have, to go before the throne of God with our requests and the requests of others. Let us keep praying and seeking His will for our lives and the lives of others. If you have a prayer request you would like added to next month’s newsletter and/or

posted on the ministry website, please fill out the form below and mail it to us. Previous prayer requests are still there on the website for people to read. We are wondering if your prayer has been answered yet? We want to know and share it with everyone else who reads the newsletter, so keep us updated. We look forward to hearing from you and standing in the gap as a prayer warrior. Please note that we will be removing older prayer requests, especially when we do not hear about updates. The newest requests are at the top of the list and the oldest requests are at the bottom of the list. These will remain on our website prayer list.

### **February - March 2017 Prayer List**

David. G.....Pray for children: Emily, Natalie, James, Brother Don and that they receive Salvation/Reconciliation and for the Ministry at Mule Creek.

Connie C .....She has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Pray for her trusting in the Lord for a healing and restore her back into the life of Larry's K.

Tom M .....Pray that prop. 57 helps get me out so I can take George L. fishing.

George L .....George has been ill in the hospital; he is 89 years old. Pray that he survives and can go home. And that Tom M. may be able to take him fishing one last time. PRAISE REPORT: **He is recovering and doing better.**

Rex S.....Pray for him and his family for strength and peace as he recovers from open heart surgery. He is doing better.

Gary B.....Needs prayer for his business and his health.

Chris C .....Prayer for a wonderful marriage.

Roger C .....Prayer for him in his peace and strength as he moves forward with the challenges of his incarceration.

Barbara M .....Was diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. Prayer that she receives a long-term resolution to her health challenge, and that her and her husband's medical and financial needs might be met.

Winifred W. ...Pray for God's favor in an upcoming board review and that he remains healthy and that he will be released soon and that the attacks on our chapel & pastor get resolved and services are restored.

Richard D.....Pray that the Lord will use him to help others in the Celebrate Recovery program.

Gabriel.....Prayer that chapel services to run smoother and for the KAIROS program to continue.

Robert M. ....Asks for prayer and healing for Rudy, Betsy & Maria (Valley fever and Carpel tunnel)

James.....Prayer for the program on the yard to change for the better for everyone.

Matlock .....Requests for prayer for a closer relationship with his son.

Joe S .....Asks for prayer for his family to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Geno.....For help with his soon-to-be-wife's family. To have them come visit him.

Pastor Jack .....We pray for his health to improve and to get instruments on the yard.

Tom S.....Asked for prayer to be able to spend time with his wife.

Bob &

Gina N.....Asking for prayer for the family... They suddenly lost their 36-year-old daughter, Laura, after complications from elective Dental surgery. She is survived by her Husband and 2-1/2-year-old son. The Family is struggling to understand this sudden loss. Pray for their healing.

Dave G. ....Asks for continued prayer for favor in appeal, family, delivery from excessive incarceration, re-unification of marriage and children, provision to fund all needs and continued blessings to this ministry. Pray that AB1909 will be retroactive.

Sebastian M....Requests prayer for his children, that the Lord will soften their hearts and they will turn to Jesus for salvation.

Hazel C.....Pray for her condition to improve. She is now in a convalescent hospital.

Alice S.....Brother "Tee" prays for her and her kids during a difficult time and transition in her life.

Pete C.....Keep him in prayer that he obtains better housing.

Daniel R. ....Pray that he stays patient with the business situation he is in right now, waiting for God to reveal His plans for his life.

This Ministry..Please pray for this ministry that we may be girded up with faith and strength to keep this ministry going to spread the Lord's word.

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The Lord's Mountain Movers - Prayer request

Person requesting prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Place request on Ministry website      Yes    No

Place request in Newsletter              Yes    No

(Use back of request if necessary. You can also use blank paper)

Mail to: The Lord's Mountain Movers, PO Box 1211, Boulevard, CA 91905-0311

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