DR. MENSA OTABIL

ON ABIDING IN CHRIST

(GENERAL OVERSEER INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL GOSPEL CHURCH (ICGC) ACCRA, GHANA)



Abiding In Christ

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Table of Contents

23
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17TH JANUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: ABIDING IN CHRIST (PART 1)



DISCOVE TEXT: JOHN 15:1-8 | A CREW

AMEN! Please join me as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS:

Are you ready to make your DECLARATIONS? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD

shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters; bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL.

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

Last week I spoke about the "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" and we didn't spend time to go into all the FRUIT of the Spirit and their manifestations.

... But we spoke about them in GENERAL.

DMC NOTES: You can access the Full Text of Last Sunday Message on the Link:

https://discoverymediacrew.com/The-Fruit-Of-The-Spirit-Mensa-Otabil

Today we will look at how we get to Produce the Fruit of the Spirit.

And I will do a two (2) Part Message that I have Titled: "ABIDING IN CHRIST."

It is in ABIDING IN CHRIST that we will bear the Fruit of the Spirit.

My Opening Text will be John's Gospel 15:1-8.

These are the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ:
1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
3 You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you.
4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
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.
7 If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
8 By this My Father is Glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My Disciples.
This is the last of the seven (7) Statements that Jesus made about Himself, when He described Himself as: "I AM" - I AM the Bread of Life, I AM the Light and so on.
This is the last one where He says: "I AM THE VINE."
And in this Teaching, Jesus is using the analogy - Something to compare with; to teach about His relationship with us. And the Analogy He uses is that of the VINEYARD.

I know that in Ghana, we don't grow a Vineyard here; but you can imagine another tree in Place of a VINEYARD or a VINE. And Jesus talks about the VINEDRESSER - Whom He says is His Father. And then He talks about the TRUE VINE - Which He says is Himself. And then He talks about the BRANCHES - Which He says are the Disciples. And then He talks about the FRUIT, which is what is Produced. Now, normally when we are looking at the Scriptures, it is important to know that when there is an analogy like this in the Bible, we don't overstretch its meaning. Because every analogy is teaching something very, very Specific. There is a main truth! ... So you don't try to use every Part to become a Message! Now, in the right (8) Verses that I read today (John 15:1-8) the word "FRUIT" is used six (6) times in the Passage; and the word "ABIDE" is used seven (7) times. So, you can see that FRUITING and ABIDING are very, very Predominant in what Jesus is Teaching today. So, I would want to define the word ABIDE and then we will take it from there.

So what does it mean to ABIDE - When Jesus says ABIDE IN ME?

It is not a word we frequently used in our normal conversation - You don't tell your friend 'abide with me.'

... But it is an English expression!

SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. It means first, to REMAIN in Place; to STAY without departing.

So, our Christian life is not an in-and-out experience - It is not an off-and-on experience. When we make a commitment to the Lord, we STAY with Him.

So, when Jesus says: "ABIDE IN ME", He says STAY or REMAIN in Me without departing.

Once you choose Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you must ABIDE in Him, you must REMAIN in Him.

You don't come in one day and next time you are out there in the world doing something totally different from your Faith in Christ.

- ... So ABIDE means to remain in Place!
- 2. Secondly, "ABIDE" means to CONTINUE in Place; to Endure, to Progress, to Grow.

So, when He says: "ABIDE IN ME", it is not just Staying, but also Growing, Maturing, becoming better.

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We remain in Him and will CONTINUE in him; we REMAIN in Him and we GROW in Him; we stay in Him and we MATURE in Him.

So, that is what it means to "ABIDE" - To bear Christian Fruit therefore, we must ABIDE IN CHRIST.

And we only bear Fruit when we are ABIDING in Christ, when we STAY in Him, and when we GROW in Him. When we CONTINUE in Him.

Because we cannot just Hope to be Fruitful by getting things!

Our Fruitfulness must be by being more Christ-like and bearing Fruit for Christ.

... We bear Christian Fruit when we ABIDE IN CHRIST.

Now if you look at Verses 4 and 5 of the Passage (John 15:4-5):

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear Fruit of itself, unless it abides in the Vine, 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, bears much Fruits; for without Me you can do nothing."

So, it is a two-way thing - It is not just "Abiding in Christ", He must also be abiding in us - When we are in Him, He is in us.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ therefore, is a two-way relationship - We live in Him and He lives in us.

In John 14:20; Jesus says: "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

So, Jesus Christ established the relationship He wants to have with us - He wants us to be in Him, and He wants to be in us.

Of course, if you have the branch of a tree - whether it's a Vine Tree. In this instance, since most of us are more comfortable with the mango tree or maybe an orange.

The branch of the mango tree is in the tree but that is not all. The tree is also in the branch.

So, there is a relationship that is continuous between the tree and its branches - The tree flows into the branch and the branch is flowing into the tree.

And that is how Jesus Christ wants us to relate with Him - "I in them and they in Me." We are in Him and He is in us.

These are two (2) important thoughts:
1. The first one is CHRIST IN ME.
CHRIST IS IN ME:
When we say Christ is in US, it means that He shares in our lives; He is Present in our lives, He is Present with us here on Earth.
Although Jesus is not Physically Present with us, because of our Union with Him, He is Present in our lives.
In our Earthly walk, we are never alone, we are never Christless - He lives in us, He moves in us and we have our being in Him.
He is not a bystander in our lives.
When we go through the fire He is in us; when we go through the storm He is in us. When People fight us, He is in us.
DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW He never departs from us!
Christ is in us, He is Present with us here on Earth! And not only is He in us, we are also in Christ.
"I am in Christ." - That means I share in His Life, He shares in my life.
And when we share in His Life, His Strength becomes our Strength, His Ability becomes our Ability, His Wisdom becomes our Wisdom - Whatever we can do He empowers us to do!
So, we are in Him!

Not only that, He is also in us.

And because we are in Christ, He is Present in our lives. And we are Present with Him in Heaven - We share in HIS HEAVENLY LIFE.

Christ in us and we are in Him; that is a truth you must always remember as a Christian.

Christ is in me and I am in Him; He lives in me I live in Him. He is the Vine I am the Branch. It is not a branch that is outside of Him, it is a branch that is IN HIM.

SO HOW DO WE GET TO ABIDE IN CHRIST?

- ... I'm going to give you FOUR (4) WAYS in which we ABIDE in Christ.
- 1. We Abide in Christ first by ACCEPTING CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.
- ... That is the first step to ABIDING in Christ!
- 1 John 4:15 says: "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

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This is where everything starts - When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

And by now, you should know that accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour is more than going to Church; it is more than being a Good Person.

It is a conscious Personal decision every Human Being must make at one Point of our life.

To accept that what Jesus did on the Cross was for them: His Death was for them, His Resurrection was for them.

In His Death we have forgiveness of sin; in His Resurrection we have New Life.

And when we accept that, we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Personal Saviour. And when we accept Christ, He comes to live in us! To Abide in Christ, we must accept Him as our Lord and Personal Saviour. It is Good to go to Church, it is Good to be a Nice Person; but that is not accepting Christ as your Lord and Personal Saviour. You have to accept that His Death forgives you of your sins and his Resurrection gives you a New Life. And when you accept those two (2) things, you have Him as your Lord and your Saviour. Do Abide in Christ by ACCEPTING HIM as our Lord and Saviour. 2. We Abide in Christ by allowing HIS TEACHINGS TO ABIDE IN US. 1 John 2:24 says: "Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father." Accepting Christ as your Lord and Saviour is the first step; but the TEACHINGS of Christ must ABIDE IN US.

And the Teachings of Christ; you will find them in the Gospels as well as the Epistles that the Apostles of Christ wrote.

... Mostly what we call the New Testament.

His Teachings must SETTLE in us, His Teachings must ABIDE in us: do He comes to live in our lives.

His Teachings come into our lives when we Read it and we allow it to SETTLE.

And the reason I say the Word of God must SETTLE is: "It is one thing reading the Word of God it is another thing letting it Settle in you".

That means: It is must settle ALL your arguments!

When you are determining what to do, the basis for determining what to do should be what Christ taught.

So, no matter how angry you are against somebody and how much you want that Person out of your life and dead; if Christ says you must forgive him or her, that word must SETTLE.

You cannot let your emotions settle your issues.

If we are going to bear Fruits for Christ, then let His Word settle your issues. Whether it is in the way we run our lives, in the way we run our families, the way we run our Businesses; the Word of Christ settles ALL arguments for us.

Until we come to that Point in our Faith, we cannot bear Fruit for Him.

If you can say: Well, Jesus says it, but I don't feel like it. Jesus says it, but I don't think that is what I want to do; as for this I will THINK about it.

When Christ SPEAKS, we don't think about it, WE DO IT.

So, we must ACCEPT Him as Lord and Saviour; His word must SETTLE in our heart.

3. We Abide in Christ BY DOING WHAT HE COMMANDED US TO DO.

1 John 3:24 says: "Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."

And I know that keeping the commandments of Jesus Christ are very difficult; the most difficult thing in this world is following Jesus.

That is very difficult! Because everything Jesus says is opposite to the way we want to live our lives.

- I. Our lives are based on Selfishness, His life is based on Selflessness.
- II. Our lives are based on Taking, His life is based on Giving.
- III. Our lives are based on Vengeance, His life is based on Forgiveness.
- IV. Our lives are based on Doing what Pleases us, His life is based on "Not My Will but Your Will be done!"

So, when we try to follow Jesus Christ, we try to go against everything about us.

That is why it is very easy for us to say we are Christians but never living in anywhere near Christ!

But if He is going to Abide in us, then we must keep His Commandments - And DOING His Commandment is difficult.

The only way we can do the Will of Christ is to see Him as our Master and we as His slaves.

The early Apostles understood that, that is why when you read the Epistles, Paul calls himself: 'A Bond Servant.' Peter will say "I am a Servant of Christ." Even James who was a Physical brother of Jesus called himself: 'A Bond Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Why did they describe themselves as Bondservants?

Because until you take that Posture, the Word of Christ cannot be obeyed by you.

So the question is: ARE YOU A SLAVE OF CHRIST?

YES, we must be as Christians because that is the only way you can OBEY without question.

So, when He says forgive, and everything in you wants to slap the Person back; you cry 'Lord I don't want to forgive him or her, but I forgive.'

That is a Slave, a Bondservant! - Everything in me doesn't want to do it, but AT THE WORD!

Until Christ's Word is our command, and we see ourselves simply as a Slave - Do what He says; we CANNOT Abide in Him. And you will not bear Fruit.

- ... So we ABIDE in Him by doing what He commands us to do.
- 4. We Abide in Him BY LIVING AND WALKING IN GOD'S LOVE.

1 John 4:16 says: "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

Jesus clearly taught that WALKING IN LOVE was the mark of Christiandom.

These days you will think that other things are the mark of Christianity.

Of course, sometimes People think that POWER is the mark of Christianity.

... But that is not what Jesus said!

Jesus said by this they shall know that you are my Disciples, BECAUSE OF LOVE.

The life of the Believer must be characterized by LOVE at all levels: Life in Church, in our Marriage, in our Business - In EVERYTHING, we must Walk in Love.

You must Love the Lord with all that we have, you must Love all the Believers as Brothers and Sisters and we must Love People with the Love of Christ.

Not too long ago, Christians used to call each other Brothers and Sisters - These days you don't hear much of that!

We used to call each other Brother so-and-so, Sister so-and-so - because there was supposed to be Love.

We seems to have moved away from that ethics now!

So the question is: If you are Married; is the Love of Christ in your Marriage?

You know People think all kinds of things about Marriage - Sexual Compatibility, Mental Compatibility, and all of that but never the Love of God.

It is not just about Compatibility, it is about the Love of God!

If you have the Love of God, there is no way your Marriage will not work. There is no way the Love of Christ can be Present in a Marriage and conflict is Present at the same time.

... The two don't work together!

No matter all the Compatibility you learn, if we don't learn to walk in the Love of God, nothing works for us!

How can People know that we are Disciples of Jesus?

Because we have Love one for another; we don't cheat one another, we don't defraud one another, we don't crook one another.

The Church must be House of Love and not "Each for himself and God for us ALL".

And that is how we BEAR FRUIT.
If you want to be FRUITFUL, walk in Love, obey the Commandments of Jesus.
The Word of God dwells in you and let Christ dwell in your life - That is the only way we bare Fruit.
Let me close with John 15:16.
Jesus said something interesting there:
"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.
TWO (2) THINGS I want to Highlight:
1. The first one is that Christ Chose us and appointed us to be FRUITFUL.
That is the reason why He chose us, that is the reason why we got Born Again - To be FRUITFUL.
We are apointed to be Fruitful.
Fruitfulness is based on only trusting the Lord; to work out His Purposes in our lives.
But then, Jesus Christ said something very, very radical to us:
2. Jesus says that the Father answers Prayers of those who are FAITHFUL.

Name He may give you - Such that whatever you ask the Father He gives it to you.

Listen to Him again (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

Jesus linked answer to Prayer to FRUITFULNESS.

I have never seen it in that way - It shocked me!

And this Verse is very Pivotal, because every Promise Jesus gave for answered Prayers (we read everywhere else in the New Testament) is conditioned on this!

So, if you read for example Matthew 7:8 that says: "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Who is the 'EVERYONE' who asks and receives?

Does it mean that any Person at all can go and say Father do this for me and it will happen?

... Is that how God answers Prayer?

This 'EVERYONE' must be read in the light of John 15:16 - "Whoever BEARS FRUIT - whatever he asks the Father, would be given".

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In other words, everyone who asks and receives, is everyone who BEARS FRUIT.

The "Fruitless Christians" will not only be Fruitless in their relationship with God, but their Prayer life will also be Fruitless.

When Jesus says in Mark 11:24 - "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you Pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Does it mean that Christians can live anyhow, work anyhow, behave anyhow, hate People, be destructive - and then come and say: "According to Mark 11:24: Whatever I ask, I shall receive?

NO!

This verse must be interpreted in the light of John 15:16 - "Whoever bears fruit, whatever he asks the Father, it shall be given to him.

The reason why we quote all these Prayer answering Verses and we don't have answers is because we are Fruitless.

The Scripture is not a Mechanical Tool - The Principles of God are not Mechanical; you can't just live anyhow and Pray to God and expect Him to hear you.

When Jesus says in John 16 23-24 - "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My Name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My Name. Ask, and you will receive, that your Joy may be Full."

It must be seen in the light of John 15:16 - "Whoever bears FRUIT".

So that every "Whoever" that Jesus is Promising this Prayer answering to, is not just "Whoever"; but the Believer who ABIDES in Him, who is bearing FRUIT.*

He is the one Jesus is Promising that: "If you bear fruit, if your life reflects Me, then whatever you ask the Father, He will do it for you".

WHY IS THAT SO?

Because Praying in the Name of Jesus is not simply saying the Name of Jesus; it is not just adding the Name of Jesus to your Prayer: "Father, I want to travel, I want to go to America, I want to go to Hong Kong, I want to go to Paris, I want You to Promote me, I want you to make me the Managing Director of our Company, I want you to give me 1 Billion, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

And just because you Add: 'In Jesus' Name' - God must be obliged to do your wishes for you.

Is that how prayer works?

No! - When we are Abiding in Christ and we are Praying in the Name of Jesus; it implies that we have become so aligned with Christ, with His Nature, with His Spirit so that every request will make is in conformity with His Will.

And when we are so much in touch with Him, that every request he make is in conformity with His Word; then whatever we ask, He will do it for us!

And you can't live anyhow and use the Name of Jesus.

You can't just think that if you can bamboozle your way with God; work hard and talk enough Tongues, cry in enough Tongues and stamp your feet enough.

God will be so 'intimidated' He will answer your Prayer - NO!

The only way He answers your Prayer is because you are in the Vine and the Husbandman (the Vinedresser) has pruned you. And after he has pruned you, you bear much FRUIT.

... Anyway, that is what I will be Preaching on next week!

And because of that, He gives you the Permission: "Ask whatever you want and I will do it".

Why does He give you the Permission?

Because when you are so in Him, whatever you ask for is not Selfish, it is not Self-centred, it is not Vanity - Whatever you wish for is what Christ wishes for; and because of that your Prayer in His Name is guaranteed one hundred Percent (100%) Answer.

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Do you want to have more of your prayers answered?

... Then ABIDE IN CHRIST!

Instead of learning how to Pray on a Mountain or receive an impartation or receive a Mantle; or use Olive Oil and pour on yourself - ABIDE IN CHRIST.

If you Abide in Him, He says you will bear fruit. And because you bear fruit, whenever you ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you!

Do you wonder why you Pray one hundred (100) Prayers and ninety nine (99) are not answered?

Have you ever wondered why you Pray, Pray, Pray - they don't get answered?

... You are not ABIDING; you are not bearing FRUIT.

You are trying to armtwist God, you are trying to hijack Him.

And some People want to give God threats - "if You don't do this Lord, then I'm not worshiping you again, You are no longer Jehovah".

And so? It's as if the moment you say that God will say "if I don't answer this guy then I will no longer be God."

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He was God before you were born, before your father was born, before your mother was born, before your grandfather and your great-grandfather were born.

And He will still be God after you die; He will be God in the days of your grandchildren, great-grandchildren!

You think you can threaten God to answer your Prayers? Where did you get that idea?

Our prayers are answered because we ABIDE in Him and we BEAR FRUIT in Him.

And may the Lord help each one of us to be "ABIDING Christians", who are "Fruit Bearing Christians"; then we will see the Father answering our Prayers; so that His Name will be Glorified!

Not so that you will go and brag to other People, but that His Name will be Glorified.
Let's bow down our head!
ALTAR CALL
The way to ABIDE IN CHRIST is to ask Him into your heart.
And if Christ is not in your heart you have to just Pray and ask Him to come in.
And so I just want to lead you in a very Simple pr Prayerayer to invite Jesus Christ into your heart; to become your Lord and Saviour.
Wherever you are reading this message on the Label of DMC, just put your hands up on your heart and say this Simple pr Prayerayer with me.
And say:
Heavenly Father, today I come to You just as I am. I am a sinner, I cannot save myself.
I Thank You Father, that Jesus Christ died for me on the Cross of Calvary, He took away my sins. I believe in Him and I accept His forgiveness.
I Thank You Father that Jesus rose again from the dead and He is Alive forevermore; to give me New Life.
I believe in Him and I accept Him.
And so I Proclaim today that Jesus Christ is my Lord; and I commit to live all my life to serve Him, to Please Him and to Honour Him.

... In Jesus' Name I Pray - AMEN.

And if you really meant that Prayer in your heart, you are now ABIDING IN CHRIST.

You have started a Process - Let His Word STAY in you; OBEY Him, BEAR FRUIT for Him.

Then your Prayer will be answered because you BEAR MUCH FRUIT - Amen!



24TH JANUARY, 2021 - TOPIC: ABIDING IN CHRIST - PART 2.



TEXT: JOHN 15:1-6

AMEN! Please join as we make our DECLARATION OF FRUITFULNESS:

Are you ready to make your DECLARATIONS? Say with me:

The Eternal God is our refuge. He opens rivers in desolate heights. The Lord makes the wilderness a Pool of water.

The LORD God is my Sun and Shield; The LORD gives Grace and Glory.

Therefore, I delight myself in Him. Those who are Planted in the House of the LORD shall be fresh and flourishing.

Though the Earth be shaken; the Name of the Lord is my Strong Tower. By Faith I affirm that: In Christ alone is my Salvation. In Him I live, And move And have my being.

It is written: The Righteous are like trees Planted by the waters - bearing fruits in its Season.

So I boldly declare: As for me, my God has made me EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL;

In this Season, my Spirit bears fruits of Righteousness, my Talents make way for me. With my hands, I will Plant, I will Build, I will Harvest - Day by day, Step by step.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

It's great having you join us today. And I trust you are experiencing God's Favour and Protection.

The last couple of weeks have been interesting, not in a Good way.

But we have seen an upsurd of the COVID-19 Disease and we have seen a lot of infections and a lot of illnesses and very, very sadly, some deaths.

So, before I Preach this Morning, I just want to Pray for People who are infected (wherever they are) or reading from now on the Label of DMC.

They could be your family Members, they could be your friends. Could be somebody watching us Online or reading now on the Label of DMC, from any Part of the world.

We serve a God Who is more than able to heal the sick and we serve a Saviour Who is a Great Healer and a Great Physician.

And no weapon formed against you shall Prosper.

And wherever the infection is, we come by the Authority of the Name of Jesus, trusting Him to Touch you wherever you are - Amen!

If you are reading now on the Label of DMC, and you are Infected, we are trusting God to touch you right now. If you have a relative who is Infected, we are trusting God to touch them this morning.

All of this Nation (Ghana or Nigeria), all over this Continent (Africa), all over this World - We are trusting the Healing Power of God to touch many People today - Amen!

The Scripture Root for HEALING for the Christian is always what God says.

People don't get Healed because they Prayed so Hard; we don't get Healed because the Man of God is very Anointed.

... We get Healed Because God has PROMISED IT.

Our Faith is not just in a Man of God; neither is our Faith in our Prayer but our Faith is in the Faithfulness of God and His Word.

And so I'm going to give you the Scriptural Foundation; and upon that AUTHORITY, we are claiming Healing for everybody - AMEN!

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV), it says:

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our Peace was upon Him,

AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

This is the Promise that God gave through the Prophet Isaiah, concerning the Messiah; that: He would BEAR our griefs, our sorrows, our Pains, our sicknesses, our diseases;

... And that by HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

That means the Messiah would be WHIPPED - And in His whipping, we have our Healing.

... That is the BASIS of our Healing.

Matthew 8:16-17 - It talks about Jesus Christ and it says:

When Evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a Word, and Healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the Prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

The Scripture is telling us that Jesus HEALED People and the reason why He Healed People is because Isaiah had Promised that He Himself took our sicknesses and our infirmities.

In other words, there is a Promise in Isaiah: Even Healing that took Place in the life of Jesus, was in fulfilment of Scripture.

Finally, 1 Peter 2:24 - And Peter is talking about Jesus Christ; he says:

"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - By whose Stripes you were Healed".

The reason why we can ask God for Healing, is because Jesus was beaten with stripes. "And by His Stripes, we are Healed."

We are Healed from every Infirmities, we are Healed from every Afflictions, we are Healed of Viruses, we are Healed from Bacteria; we are Healed from Cellular Sicknesses, we are Healed from Bone Diseases.

... We are Healed of ALL INFIRMITIES.

And so this morning, on the basis of the Word of God, we want to Pray for everyone who is afflicted, who has a neighbour, a friend who is inflicted. And we just want to trust God for their Healings.

And for you reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, I am confident you are not afflicted in any way.

But you may know somebody close to you who is sick and that God is going to touch them.

If you know of someone who is sick, you can Stand in Gap for them as we Pray - Put your hands on yourself and that is an extension on that sick Person.

You may not even know the Person Personally; but you have just heard that so and so has Covid-19; or that so and so is sick. And you just want to Stand in (in the name of that Person) by Faith.

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And if you are sick by yourself, you are going to Stand in for yourself!

And everybody who is Standing in for somebody who sick; or you are sick - Just put your hands on your body.

The reason we say put your hands on your body - Jesus says: "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

And although we may not be able to lay hands on you; your hands laid on you is an extension of the Hands of Jesus Christ reaching out to you!

Your hands laid on you is an extension of the Hands of Jesus Christ reaching out to your loved ones, your friends who are sick.

Today, all across your Home, in the Hospital; all across this World - everywhere People are responding in Faith:

We are trusting God for Massive Healings to take Place.

Massive Healings, because of the Promise of Jesus Christ: "Himself, took our Infirmities, and bore in His Body our diseases."

... What you carry in your body, Christ has already carried!

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THOSE HAVING COVID 19 AND SICK GENERALLY.

And Father, we on the Basis of the Scriptures; that Jesus Christ; the Saviour of the world Himself.

Not an Angel, not His mother, not His Father; "Jesus Himself bore our Infirmities, and bore our Sicknesses and bore our Diseases."

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So Father, we consider that every Afflictions of COVID-19 has been BORNE by the Lord Jesus Christ.

He carried it on His Own Body: by His sufferings. There is no need for any other Person to suffer.

And on the basis of the Scriptures, on the basis of the "Finished Work" of Christ, and on the basis of what He had accomplished; I come and lay a demand on Your Promises of Healing, Heavenly Father.

On behalf of our world, On behalf of our Nation, On behalf of our friends, On behalf of our Family, On behalf of our Church Members, On behalf of our People who are inflicted by this dreaded diseases.

In the Name of JESUS CHRIST, the Redeemer, the Healer, the Deliverer. I reach out and Pray for you right now - By the Authority in the Name of Jesus:

And I COMMAND Covid-19: with its Symptoms with it's Manifestations, with his dreadful Afflictions, with every form of damaged it is doing on your body.

I command it to CEASE and desist NOW, in Jesus'Name!

And I command every Pains to cease in your body right now.

And I Command every Symthoms to leave your body.

Ànd I command every Afflictions to leave your Body!

And I command that the Healing Power of Christ touches you wherever you are that your breathing becomes normal right Now!

That God DELIEVERS you from restlessness, in the Name of Jesus!

Every Manifestation that has afflicted you, I Command you to be Healed right now by the Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ "Who Himself took our Infirmities and bore our Sicknesses."

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I command your friends HEALED, your family members HEALED, your relations HEALED. I Command your Church Members HEALED, your Office Workers HEALED, your Colleagues HEALED, in the Name of Jesus!

Your Parents HEALED, your Grandparents HEALED, your children HEALED, your Uncle HEALED, your Auntie HEALED, your Cousins HEALED. Every relation of yours be HEALED.

And may the Healing Power of Christ travel to them; outside Jurisdiction of Ghana, into other Nations of the world.

In every Parts of the world, wherever this Prayer is PLAYED or read on the Label of DMC, on TV, on Social Media: may the Healing Power of Christ attend and HEAL the sick and bring Life and Health and Deliverance to the People of God.

In JESUS' MIGHTY NAME we have Prayed - Amen! ... And everybody say Amen - AMEN!!!!! And so Lord, we consider it DONE, by the Authority which is in the Name of JESUS. Let's give Jesus Praise and Honour and Adoration. Please be seated, in the Name of Jesus - Amen. We Thank You Lord, that Jesus HEALS. And He Heals to the UTTERMOST - Amen! Well, I'm going to continue my Message Titled "ABIDING IN CHRIST (PART 2)" DMC NOTES: You can get to access the Full Text of the Part 1 in the Link below: https://discoverymediacrew.com/Abiding-In-Christ-Part-1-Pastor-Mensa-Otabil It's obvious, I will not be able to complete this, because we spent much time in Prayer. But I will go as far as I can go, and then we will pick up again. John 15:1-6 (NKJV) - This is Jesus speaking: 1 "I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser.

Prunes, that it may bear more Fruit.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear Fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears Fruit He

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear Fruit of itself, unless it abides in the Vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much Fruits; for without Me you can do nothing." 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. Last week, I said that this Statement of Jesus was a Metaphor or an Analogy. Jesus is using the Vine and the way it is, to speak about something. And there are two (2) Levels of Application of this Passage: 1. The first (1st) relates to the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The VINE that Jesus is talking about is God's Planting - Something that God Planted. Because, He said: "My Father's the Vinedresser."

VINEDRESSER simply means the Gardener - The One Who is Planting the Vine and taking care of the Vine.

He said: God is the One Who has Planted the Vine.

That VINE in the first instance, represents ISRAEL.

ISRAEL as a Nation, represents God's Chosen Nation - God's Planting! And under the Law (the Old Testament), every Jew therefore, was a Branch of what God has Planted.

So, if you were a New, you were the Branch that God has Planted.

If you would look at the Passage, Jesus did not described Himself just as 'the Vine.' He didn't say: 'I am the Vine.'

... He says "I am the "TRUE VINE".

That is very important! Because He was comparing Himself with something else - "I am the "True Vine"; and my Father is the "Husbandman" or the "Vinedresser"."

So if there is the "TRUE VINE", then there is a Vine that is not the "Real Vine".

And Jesus is saying: Yes, Israel was God's Planting, I am the "Real One" and they have to be Planted in Me!

So, the two (2) Branches that Jesus talks about - The Fruitful and The Unfruitful.

... We will start with the Unfruitful.

WHO THEN IS THE UNFRUITFUL BRANCH?

When Jesus says: There are branches in Me that do not bear fruit - Who are those Branches?

When Jesus came, His Message was first to Israel - They were the BRANCHES of the Vine. However, many of them did not receive Jesus Christ as Lord.

And so, they are the Branches that DID NOT bear Fruit.

The Branches that did not bear fruit (in the immediate) refer to Jews who rejected Christ as their Redeemer.

In Jeremiah 2:21 we read, God says about Israel: "Yet I had Planted you a Noble Vine, a Seed of Highest Quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate Plant of an Alien Vine?"

That is how God described Israel - "An Alien Vine".

And that is why He says: "I am the 'TRUE VINE"." Because, by the time Jesus came, they had departed from Him.

- ... So He refers to the Jews who did not receive Him as Lord!
- 2. But there is a second (2nd) Application to it.

And this has to do with: Those who Profess Christ, but DO NOT live for Him.

It speaks to those who say they are Christians, they say they are in the Vine; but they are not Producing anything to show that they are in the Vine.

Jesus Christ Himself alluded to that in Matthew 7:32-23; when He said: Many will come and say Lord, Lord, I did so and so in Your Name.

"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not Prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many Wonders in Your Name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who Practice Lawlessness!'

So, there are those who PROFESS Christ, but they do not live for Him - They are the Branch that does not bear Fruit.

So the Branch that does not bear fruit, are those Children of God who do not Abide in Christ, who do not believe in Christ - They don't Produce fruit.

Then those who say 'Jesus is my Lord;' but they do not also Produce any Fruit.

These Category of People are the Unfruitful Vine - And the Bible says they will be cut off.

That's how the Father treats those who are not truly in Christ - He cuts them off!

"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" - John 15:6

So, for us Practically; it means it's Possible to go to Church, to be Part of Christian Activities. And still not be in Christ.

And these days, there are a lot of People who go to Church, not to connect to Christ, but to connect to the Man of God.

I hear the Phrase often (and People use it often): "I TAP into your Anointing." 'I Tap into your Grace - Not to Christ! But they are telling the Man of God, 'I TAP into you".

Are you in a Man of God or in Christ? Whom are you in? Whom are you tapping from?

If you are the Branch, whom are you receiving from? Is it from Christ or from a Human Being?

If you are receiving simply from a Man of God, and not from CHRIST; then you are the Branch that does not bear Fruit.

So each one of us must be careful, that our Christianity does not just become, attendance of Church.

... We have a lot of that!

Seeking for a Miracle, seeking for Breakthrough, seeking for Wealth; but never connecting to Christ.

There are even some People who wants to immediately start Speaking in Tongues - just to blend in. Christianity is not just about blending in; it's about BELONGING to Christ. Blending into a Church! - Being accepted, being just a Born Again. You must be CONNECTED TO CHRIST. So, for everyone reading this Message on the Label of DMC, I want you to ask yourself this question: "Is Christ truly my Lord? Is Christ truly living in my heart? Have I truly given my heart to Him? Am I truly a Christian or just a Church Goer? Am.i following Christ or a Preacher? Who is my Saviour?" It gets scary the kind of accolades People give to Preachers now. And you wonder if we say all of that about a Man of God, what do we say about the GOD Who made the Man? And unfortunately, there are some Preachers who call all the ATTENTION to themselves and want the Faith of the People to be IN THEM, and not in Christ. And we have to be careful: No human Being died for you! No Human Being can say: "Myself took your Infirmities and bore your Diseases." Only One Person can say that - And His Name is JESUS CHRIST, the Son of the Living God. He is the Source of our Faith, and He is our REDEEMER. So, the UNFRUITFUL BRANCH represents: I. The Jews who did not connect to Christ; II. It also represents those who PROFESS Christ and are not connected to Him.

What about the FRUITFUL BRANCH?

1. The Fruitful Branch represents the Jews who connected to Christ as their Lord and Saviour; as Redeemer.
Because, as you know, there were many who accepted Christ:
At His BIRTH, the Shepherds received Him; the Prophetess Anna in the Temple; Simeon, Zacharias, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Disciples of John.
And then so many thousands came to Believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
They are the Fruitful Branch.
So first, He speaks to the Jews who are connected to Christ. But it goes beyond that!
2. The Fruitful Branch are also those who Profess Christ and LIVE FOR HIM.
They are CONNECTED to Him; they are bearing FRUIT to His Glory!
They have come to Christ, something has Changed in their lives.
We used to sing a Song in the Past (I haven't heard it sang these days).
It says:
"GREAT CHANGE, GREAT CHANGE, SINCE I WAS BORN AGAIN;
THE THINGS I USED TO DO,
I DO THEM MORE."

And normally when we sang that Chorus, then we will add:

ALL THE THINGS WE USED TO DO THAT WE DO THEM NO MORE

Because Christianity must Manifest in a Change of Life.

So the question you have to answer is: "Since you gave your life to Christ, are there things you used to do, that you do no more?"

If you used to fornicate, do you do it no more? Or you used to fornicate when you didn't know Christ and after you know Christ, you are still fornicating?

You used to commit adultery when you didn't know Christ; after you know Christ, you still commit adultery.

You used to steal when you didn't know Christ; after you know Christ, you still steal?

You used to lie when you didn't know Christ; after you know Christ, you still lie.

... Then, where is the CHANGE?

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All of us should be able to say: The things I used to do, I do them no more!

The girls I used to chase, I chase them no more!

The men I used to chase, I chase them no more!

The lies I used to tell, I tell them no more!

The gossip I used to gossip, I gossip them no more!

Inspection! And when He comes, He is going to look for evidence of the Vine. And the Evidence of the Vine is that its Nature is bearing fruit. So, when we ABIDE IN CHRIST, something we used to do; we will do no more! And what does the Vinedresser do to the Fruit-bearing BRANCH? Does he clap for them and say: Well done! No, No, No! - He cleanses them, He Purges them so that they will bear more Fruit. In other words, when you start bearing fruit as a Christian, God will start working on your life, in such a way that you would bear more fruit. He will Purge you, He will cleanse you; He works on us to bear much Fruit - Because the Father's desire is that we will be Fruitful Christians. But not only Fruitful, we will bear MUCH MORE FRUIT. So there's a difference between bearing Fruit, and bearing Much More Fruit. So, if I am Holy, God wants me to be Holier. If I am Good, He wants me to be Better. If I have stopped Committing adultery Physically, He wants me to stop committing it Mentally also.

Because if you are the BRANCH, He says He will come for FRUIT Inspection; not LEAF Inspection - FRUIT

If I have stopped Committing it Mentally, He wants me also to go to other Level of Righteousness.

So, when God comes in, Your life Pleases Him; He doesn't Part you on the back. He calls you to a Higher Level of Righteousness.

He is ALWAYS Calling us HIGHER - Because we have to bear the Purer and the Best Fruit for Him.

So, some of us may say: Oh Yes, the things I used to do, I do them no more. But we have to add: "The thoughts I used to think, I think them no more".

Because after we have overcome the 'doing', we have to overcome the 'Thinking'.

The things that tempt me, tempt me no more! The things that occupy my mind, don't occupy my mind any longer.

... Because I am Planted in Christ!

When He comes into our lives, we BEAR FRUIT; and when we bear Fruit, He PRUNES us so that we may bear MUCH FRUIT.

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So, ARE YOU A FRUIT BEARING CHRISTIAN?

... It's a question!

I know you are meditating on that question - Very Deep: "Are you a Fruit bearing Christian?"

What is your Fruit? How many things can you say: You don't do now because of Christ?

And how many things can you say: You do now, because of Christ?

How many things can you say: 'I have put away because I belong to Jesus?' "And this is what I have put ON since Christ came into my life."

Because for each one of us, there must be something to that we have received from Christ, that we can't give up!

So, WHY IS THE FRUITFUL BRANCH PRUNED?

1. To Flourish better in the Vine.

The Branch should Flourish more through the Vine; more of Christ flowing through us, more of His Love! He must increase in us, and we must increase in Him.

When we INCREASE in Him, we DECREASE in ourselves.

- ... So, He Prunes us so that we can FLOURISH.
- 2. He Prunes us so that we become MORE FRUITFUL.

The more of Christ we receive, the more fruit we bear for Him.

HOW DOES GOD PRUNE US?

When God want to Prune us, what does He do? - TWO (2) WAYS:

1. He Prunes us by Cleaning us with His WORDS.

Jesus says: "You are cleansed by the Words that I speak to you."

So when God is Pruning us, the Pruning Knife is HIS WORD.

His Word is our Light, the Word is our life! And as we submit to the Word of God, it cuts off all the wrong things out of our lives. ... So He cleanses us with His Word. Whenever you go to Church, or you hear the Word of God, and you feel it's CUTTING you - You are being PRUNED. You heard the Pastor Preaching and you say: "Hey, this one cut me oooh!" Don't be be angry, it's Pruning because it's God cutting something out of your life! ... He uses His Word to cut you. Anytime you read the Bible, and it cuts your heart - God is Pruning you; and He is using His WORD. 3. And then, He also removes ANY UNFRUITFULNESS that is in our lives. DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW Anything in our lives that keeps us from becoming More Fruitful: it includes the things that we have made our gods - He will take them away from us! You think your car is your god? Your home is your god? Your good looks is your god? Don't let anything compete with GOD in your life! - He removes everything that we have made our god;

- He removes everything that we trust in instead of HIM;

- He removes everything that misleads us (makes us go astray);

- He removes anything that hinders our Spiritual Growth: Bad habits, bad influences, He will CUT THEM OUT OF OUR LIVES. WHY? - So that we may BEAR FRUIT. Sometimes you find that there are People who will quarrel and fight you and then leave you alone. Many at times it's God removing them from your life; because they are a BAD INFLUENCE on you! The Person you travel with and go to funerals with all the time; and go and drink - God will start stirring that relationship up to broken. So, you will not go to that funeral and drink again. ... It is God's Pruning Process! Certain friends who lead you astray, God is going to remove them out of your way - AMEN. ... I don't know whether you like it or not! DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW But if you bear Fruit, God will REMOVE those People out of your way; so that you will BEAR MUCH FRUIT. 4. In the end, God's Greatest desire is that ALL OF US (who say Jesus Christ is our LORD) would be Properly PLANTED IN HIM - LINKED UP TO HIM. That His Life would flow through us; the Life of Christ would flow through us!

CHRIST.

That when the Life of Christ flows through us; what comes out of us would be FRIUT that LOOKS LIKE

And when God sees that we are showing Signs of being CHRIST-LIKE, then He will start removing EXCESS BAGGAGE from our lives in cutting them.

His Word would become SHARPER than any two-edged sword; cutting asunder EVERYTHING that is taking away your focus from the Lord - So you will BEAR FRUIT.

And remember: He says it is when you bear MUCH FRUIT that you will ask the Father WHATEVER YOU WANT, and He will give it to you.

God is not in the business of answering the Prayers of FRUITLESS Christians; because He doesn't answer Prayers to show off your FRUITLESSNESS.

He wants when He has answered your Prayers; when People get close to you; they will see Christ ON YOUR LIFE.

Not that you will give a BIG TESTIMONY of what God has done; and People get to you and see the devil in your life.

Then you are not a Testimony of CHRIST; you are a DISGRACE to the Gospel.

God WANTS YOU TO MANIFEST CHRIST!

...And may that become our Chief Fruitfulness in 2021:

That Christ will be Manifested in every Areas of our lives - Amen.

Let's Pray!

Just talk to the Lord and ask Him to make you Fruitful for Him - If you are a Believer;

If you are not sure whether Jesus is in your heart, ask Him to come into your heart; to forgive you of your sin, to be your Lord, to be your Saviour, to live for Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father this morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC by whatever Time Zone you are, we ask that You will help us bear FRUIT that brings Glory to God.

That our lives would Manifest Christ; our Speech, our Thoughts, our Actions would ALL Manifest Christ.

That wherever we are, People will look at us and say: INDEED, Christ lives inside of me!

... INDEED, Christ lives inside of us!

May You Oh God, help us to bear Fruit that Honours Jesus Christ; and causes Him to be MANIFEST to the whole world.

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And we Thank You Lord, for the Great Change that You bring to our lives.

In Jesus'Name - Amen and AMEN. Hallelujah!!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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MOSES DURODOLA

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