



MUCH FRUIT

MISSIONS SUNDAY

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

**If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing.**

**If you do not abide in me, you are like a branch
that is thrown away and withers;**

such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

If you abide in me and my words abide in you,

ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

**This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit,
showing yourselves to be my disciples."**

JOHN 15.5-8

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday; Jesus had ascended back to the Father. What were the disciples doing this weekend?

All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ACTS 1.14

The last words Jesus spoke to his disciples while here on earth, were words to remind them of the “fruit” that demonstrated that they were truly his disciples—

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ACTS 1.8

He also reminded them that they could do nothing without his power and that they could only receive that power through prayer—

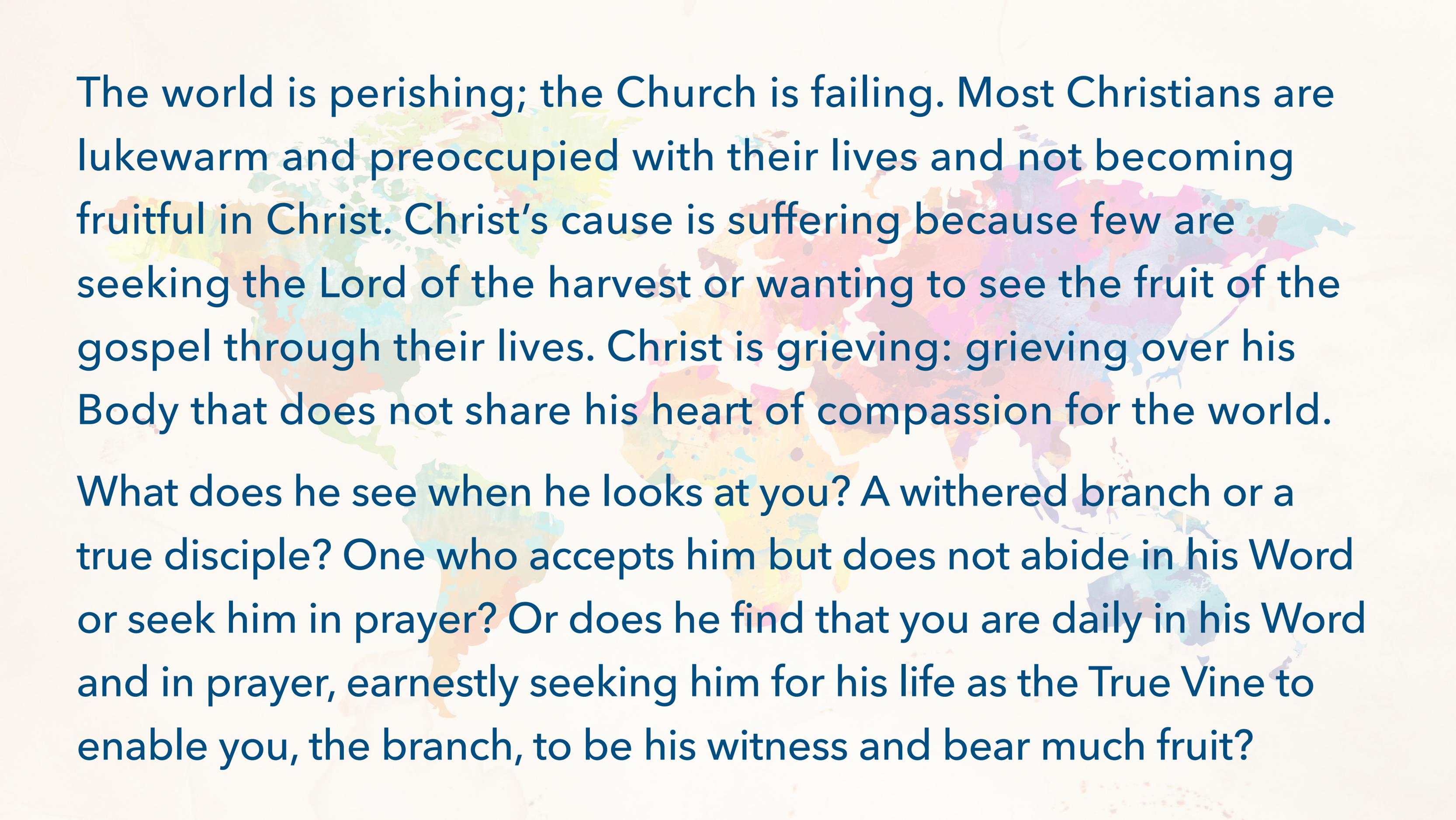
“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” LUKE 24.46-49

How often were you together in prayer this week with the body of Christ at Moravia? How often did Christ find you in prayer asking him for power so that you could be a true and fruitful disciple?

Jesus said that there are only two outcomes for a branch:

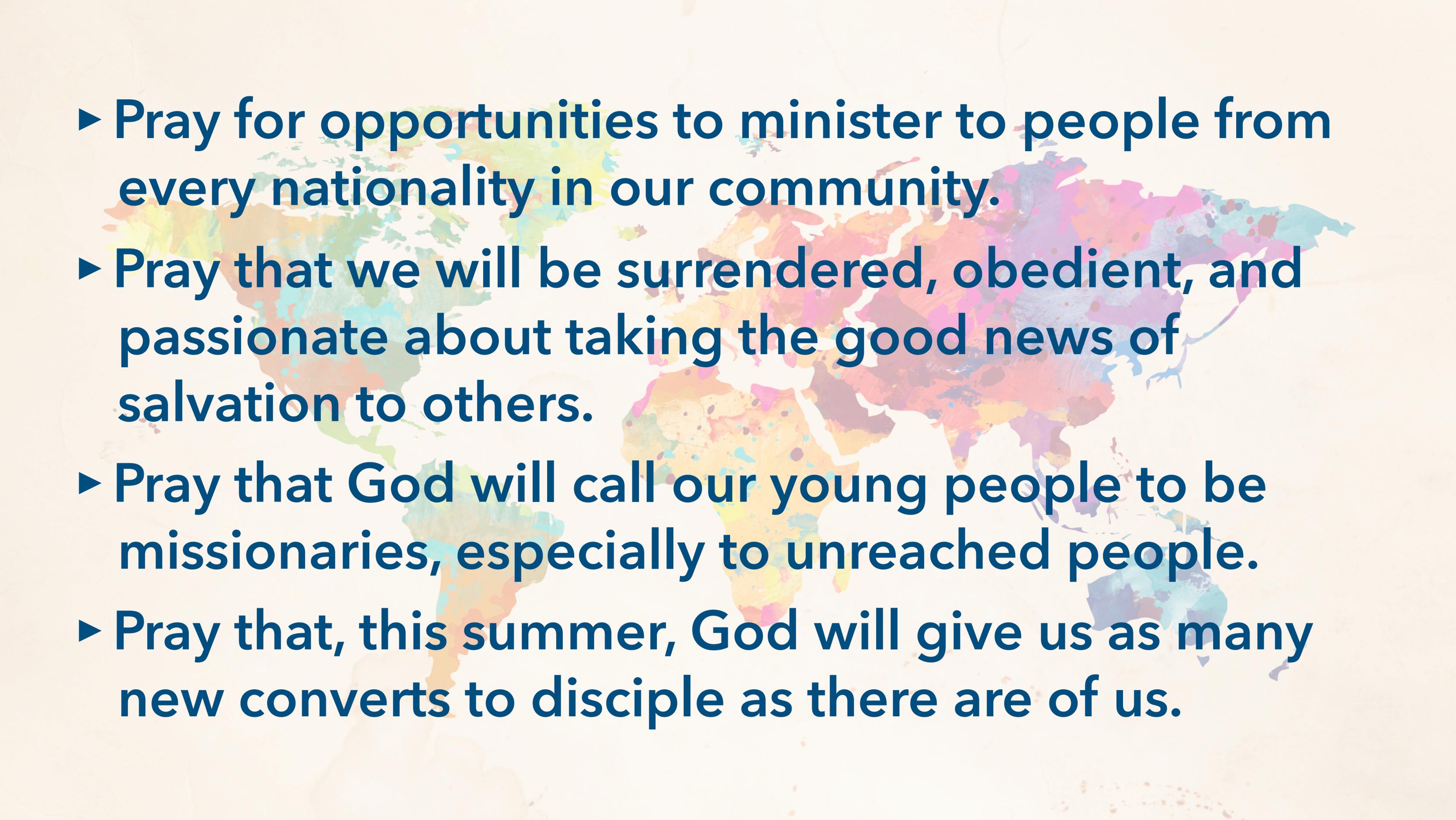
(1) bear fruit or (2) wither and be burned.

Throughout the Bible and around us, we see just two classes of Christians: (1) those who acknowledge Christ and agree with his teaching, but are content with a very small measure of God's grace and are unconcerned about truly abiding in Christ and bearing much fruit. The longing for much fruit and faithful witness simply does not bother them. (2) The much smaller group are those who can not be satisfied with little fruit, with bringing little glory to God. Their longing is to bear as much fruit as possible, as much as Christ can produce in them and through them.



The world is perishing; the Church is failing. Most Christians are lukewarm and preoccupied with their lives and not becoming fruitful in Christ. Christ's cause is suffering because few are seeking the Lord of the harvest or wanting to see the fruit of the gospel through their lives. Christ is grieving: grieving over his Body that does not share his heart of compassion for the world.

What does he see when he looks at you? A withered branch or a true disciple? One who accepts him but does not abide in his Word or seek him in prayer? Or does he find that you are daily in his Word and in prayer, earnestly seeking him for his life as the True Vine to enable you, the branch, to be his witness and bear much fruit?

- 
- ▶ Pray for opportunities to minister to people from every nationality in our community.
 - ▶ Pray that we will be surrendered, obedient, and passionate about taking the good news of salvation to others.
 - ▶ Pray that God will call our young people to be missionaries, especially to unreached people.
 - ▶ Pray that, this summer, God will give us as many new converts to disciple as there are of us.