Remain in Christ

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Preacher: Andrew Price Well, as we look forward to a new year and decade, most of us, I'm guessing, want to be [0:00] fruitful in it. the word fruitful, but we want a good or successful year, don't we? **BEAUTION** It's why people make those new year's resolutions, isn't it? Like this child on the next slide, Eve, age six, says this year, I will work at becoming a famous singer or accomplished ice dancer. Is that all? For example, we want our bodies, or if we're having treatment for health issues, we want those to bear the fruit of good health, don't we? at school or university, we want our studies to bear the fruit of good marks and eventually a good job. _______ [5:11]

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says God will then answer our prayers, which means that we need to keep praying.
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[14:32] And so again, our kingdom growth prayer night is coming up this Wednesday. But pray for what? I mean, verse 7 sounds like I can pray for a million dollars and it will be done for me.

The 7th chapter of the Bible is coming up this way. If I want to pray for a million dollars and it will be done for me. But as nice as we might think that is, it's not what Jesus is saying. Rather, verse 7 is connected to verse 8, isn't it?

And so it's about praying for bearing fruit that is for God's glory. In the words of our mission statement, it's about praying for God to gather and grow us and others in Christ.

These are the things that are done for us. But the main point here is that we stay connected to Christ by His word remaining in us.

But this word of God is we need to connect with the word and to the word of God. Now we might expect Jesus to say He remains in us by His Spirit. We might expect Jesus to say He remains in us by His Spirit.

[16:01] But the Spirit of God primarily works through the word of God. And so the way to stay connected to Christ is allowing His word to remain in us, which is what we see also back in verse 2 and 3.

So the way to keep the word of God is connected to Christ by His word. Just let His word remain in us in our words. We can see in 2 and 3. In verse 2, the word for prune is the same word as the word clean in verse 3.

In 2 and 3, the word for prune is the same word as the word clean in verse 3. So the way God prunes us to be fruitful in verse 2 is the same way He makes the disciples clean in verse 3.

So the way God prune is the same way He makes the disciples clean in verse 3. And how they made clean in verse 3? Do you see? By the word Jesus has spoken to them.

The word about Himself, the gospel. And how they made clean in verse 3? These words are according to Jesus to His word. It is according to Jesus to His word. The gospel which speaks about Jesus who died to pay for our sins and rise again as our Savior King.

[17:17] The gospel that was foreshadowed in the Old Testament and unpacked in the New Testament.

The gospel that was foreshadowed in the Old Testament and unpacked in the New Testament. This is the word that God uses to firstly cleanse us or forgive us and graft us into Jesus the vine, His family.

This is the same word God continues to use to prune us that we might be even more fruitful.

And so if you want a formula for fruitfulness this year and decade, then here it is, or on your outlines.

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BELLEVISHED AS OUT NEXT SONG SAYS, MAY
the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour.
gracious father, we do thank you for your son, the Lord Jesus.
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And we also thank you for your word which points us to him.

That we may continue to stay connected to Christ.

That we may fruit for your glory.

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