

“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 does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

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 abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

JOHN 15:1-17 (ESV)

LITURGICAL RESPONSE

READER: **This is the Word of the LORD.**

EVERYONE: **Thanks be to God. Speak, LORD. Your servants are listening. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.**

READER: **You may now be seated.**

“I AM THE TRUE VINE...”

“I AM THE TRUE VINE...”

**Israel is God’s chosen vine, His chosen vessel,
to bring LIFE and LIGHT into the world.**

But according to...

Isaiah 5

Jeremiah 2

Ezekiel 15, 17, 19

Hosea 10

Psalms 80

Deut. 32

Whenever the prophets talked about Israel as the vine...

It was NEVER GOOD.

“Get up; let us leave this place.”
— John 14:31 (CSB)

“Get up; let us leave this place.”

Leave the place where **you’ve been living disconnected.**

Leave the place of **appearance without life.**

Leave the place of **self-sustaining spirituality.**

Leave the place where **you’ve been trying to keep yourself alive.**

“menō = ABIDE”

...to **REMAIN/DWELL/LIVE**...

...to **MAKE YOUR HOME IN**...

Everyone is abiding in some *thing*... some *place*... some *source*.

Oftentimes, before Jesus ever says, “***Abide in Me,***”

He first says, “***Get up; let's leave this place.***”

Are you abiding in Jesus?

...or are you still sitting in the place He's asking you to leave?

Why is this important?

Some of us want the FRUIT of ABIDING...

...WITHOUT LEAVING the place Jesus told us to get up from.

ARE YOU ABIDING IN JESUS...

- or still sitting in the place where you're trying to keep yourself alive?

ARE YOU ABIDING IN JESUS...

- or still sitting in the place where you're trying to keep yourself alive?

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ... every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

—JOHN 15: 1, 2

FOR THOSE ABIDING IN JESUS:

Pruning is not rejection.

Pruning is cultivation.

Not all hardship is God disciplining you.

Much of our hardship is simply life in a broken world.

But there are also times when God, like a loving gardener, or a wise Father, uses difficulty to form us.

And when Scripture speaks of that kind of discipline,
it does not mean *PUNISHMENT* —
it means **TRAINING.**

“No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”
— **Hebrews 12:11**



“ikebana”



“ikebana” ⇒ **Emptiness is NOT a problem.**
It’s part of the BEAUTY.

ARE YOU ABIDING IN JESUS...

- or still sitting in the place where you're trying to **keep yourself alive?**
- or still living in the place where you're trying to **produce what only He can grow?**

ARE YOU ABIDING IN JESUS...

- or still sitting in the place where you're trying to **keep yourself alive?**
- or still living in the place where you're trying to **produce what only He can grow?**

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, ...”
—JOHN 15:2

ARE YOU ABIDING IN JESUS...

- or still sitting in the place where you're trying to **keep yourself alive?**
- or still living in the place where you're trying to **produce what only He can grow?**

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he *takes away*, ...”

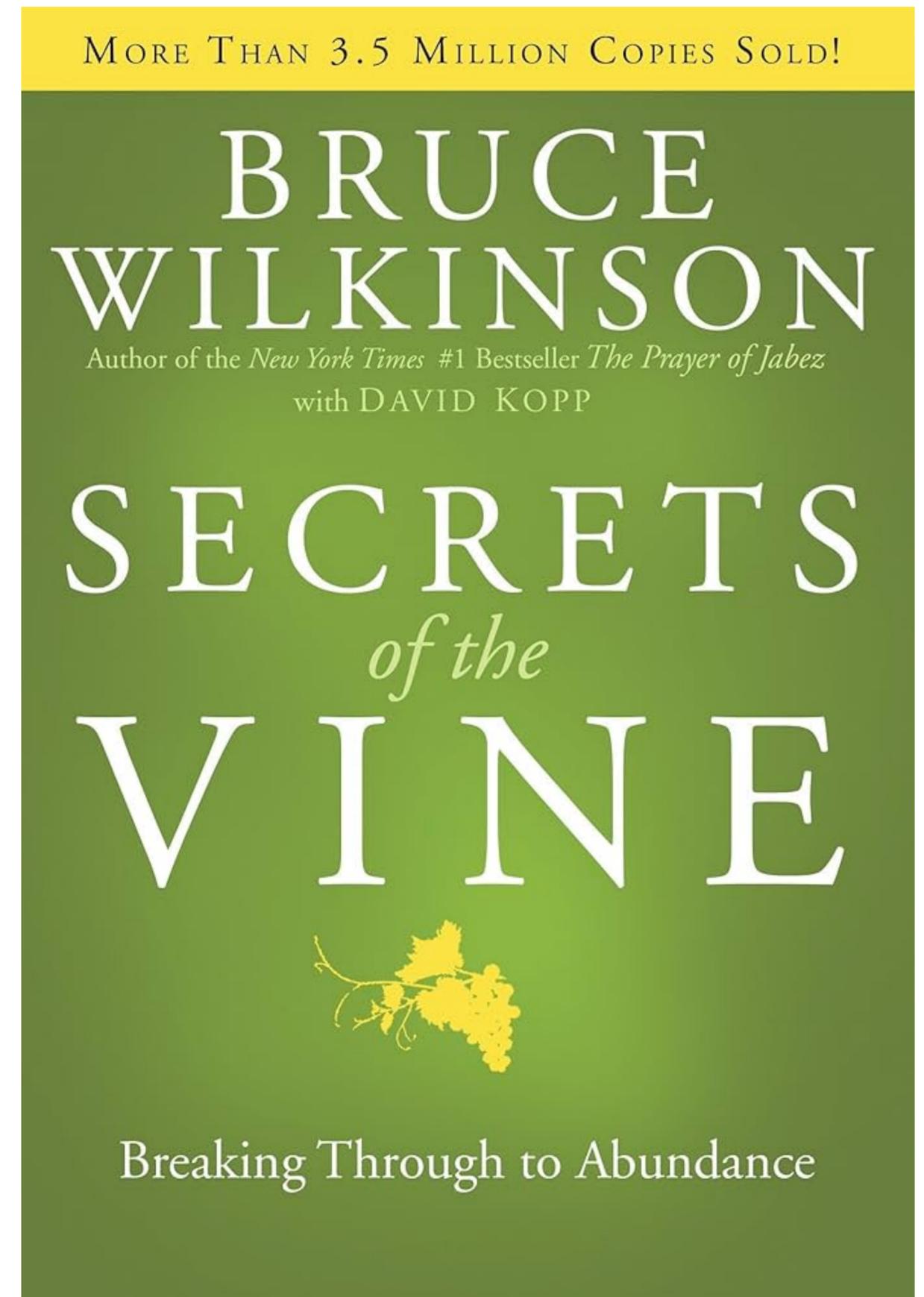
—JOHN 15:2

“takes away/remove”

“AIRŌ”

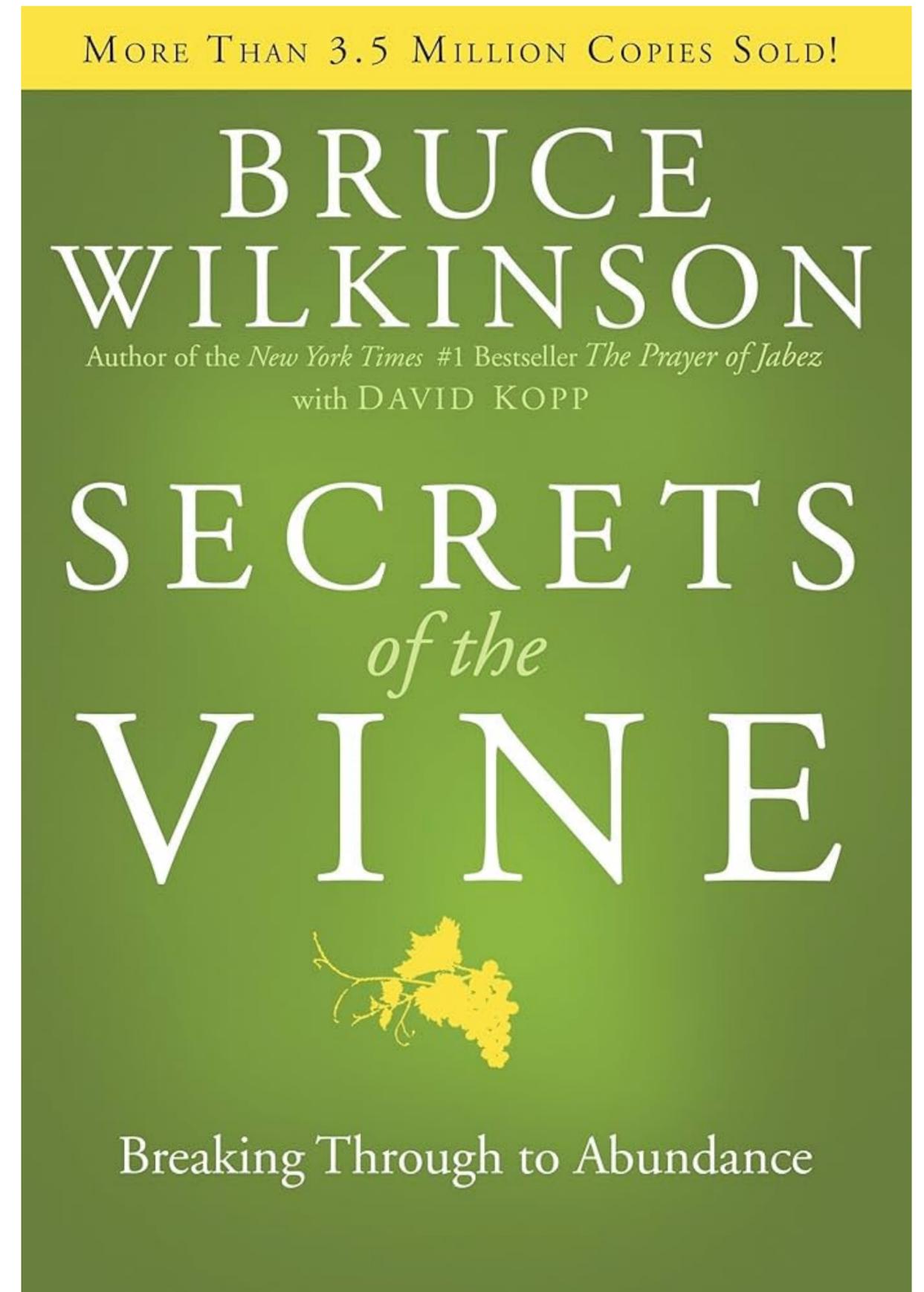
...to lift up, to raise, to pick up...

‘Oh no!’ he exclaimed. ‘The branch is much too valuable for that. We go through the vineyard with a bucket of water looking for those branches. We lift them up and wash them off. Then we wrap them around the trellis or tie them up. Pretty soon they’re thriving.’



***“Already you are clean because
of the word that I have spoken
to you.”***

— JOHN 15:3



FOR THOSE ABIDING IN JESUS:

**God doesn't REJECT His muddy, fruitless branches.
He *lifts...cleans...* and *restores* them,
so that they can be fruitful.**

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;
against such things there is no law.**

—GALATIANS 5:22-23

When you are connected to Him...
real fruit is inevitable.

**When you are connected to Him...
real fruit is inevitable.**

*“I may not yet be where I long to be...
But praise Jesus!!
I am not where I used to be.”*

**Branches connected to the True, Living Vine ALWAYS grow fruit.
But we can't "tape fruit" and call it ABIDING.**

*Are you abiding in Christ...
or you're still in a place of trying to produce fruit on your own power?*

ARE YOU ABIDING IN JESUS...

- or still sitting in the place where you're trying to **keep yourself alive?**
- or still living in the place where you're trying to **produce what only He can grow?**
- or still remaining in the place where you're trying to **earn the love He's already given?**

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

*“If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love.”*

Because for Jesus

**Abiding in Him means that LOVE and OBEDIENCE are
INSEPARABLE.**

Not: “Obey me, so I will love you.”

But: “Because I already love you, obey me.”

**The moment obedience feels like earning,
we eventually stop abiding because
we cannot remain in love we're not sure we still have.**

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 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 abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

ARE YOU ABIDING IN JESUS...

- or still sitting in the place where you're trying to **keep yourself alive?**
- or still living in the place where you're trying to **produce what only He can grow?**
- or still remaining in the place where you're trying to **earn the love He's already given?**
- or still dwelling in the place where you're trying to **give what you're not receiving?**

**The love we RECEIVE
becomes the love we GIVE.**

The love we RECEIVE
becomes the love we GIVE.

Abiding in Jesus is NOT a list of *spiritual activities*.

It is a HEART POSTURE.

It is a heart that **stops negotiating** with Jesus
and starts **surrendering** to Him.

What might The Spirit be asking you to surrender?

**What might Jesus be inviting you to “*get up and leave*”
SO THAT you can abide in Him?**

“Beware becoming prideful and becoming too comfortable... because it is a sad, sad thing when we go from singing *‘SURRENDER ALL’* to living a life that really says: *‘SURRENDER SOME.’*”

— DONNA MACNEIL

And THAT is the difference between VISITING JESUS and ABIDING IN HIM.



**I surrender all,
I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**