# Remain

***“I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5 NASB2020***

I heard something on the radio recently from Max Lucado that really struck me as significant. I wish I could remember how he phrased it because his words were powerfully succinct but I will just have to paraphrase my take away.

In essence, he was making a point that fruit cannot be produced by a separated vine and that many of us disproportionately spend our energy attempting to bear fruit as compared to the energy we spend focused on remaining connected.

I think of how true this is for me not only in my spiritual walk with the Lord but in every other aspect of life as well. How often do I find myself exhausted by my own efforts in my work life or personal relationships when I am not investing the time to remain connected to the source of all life?

Life just seems to continue becoming noisier and progressively more demanding especially in the last 3 years. Logically it makes sense to think I can’t afford to take my foot off the gas. To pull away and sacrifice opportunities to be productive in favor of setting it all down in solitude with the Lord. And yet that’s exactly what I know I need to do.

I cannot give away what I don’t already have. It would be like expecting my car to drive without first putting gas in the tank. If I focus on the source, the rest will take care of itself.

***“…seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and ALL these things will be provided to you.” Matthew 6:33 NASB2020***