

The Faith Script



Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

Volume 29
Issue 5
May
2012

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5 (NIV)

[Prayer Wall](#)

Greetings CPFI members & friends!

I often find myself caught up in what I have to do to be a "good" Christian. As I start my day and put on my different hats as a pharmacist, or a friend, or a church member, I try to contemplate ways that I can be more loving, more joyful, more giving, and more Christ-like, rather than the self-serving, self-loving person that my flesh desires me to be. I look to others who bear some virtue that I desire and try to emulate them and their desirable qualities. The list of what we can do to make ourselves "good" Christians is ever so large, and even if we set our sights at the most fundamental task of loving others, we can so often fail. Even the apostle Paul who we greatly respect, acknowledges in I Tim 1:15 that he was the worst of sinners and fell far short of God's standard.

I have found that where I set my sights is precisely the root of my failure. The task itself becomes the object of my desire, and I take what is meant to be the "fruit" of the Spirit and instead treat it as though it was a reliable, well-rooted tree. Our root, though, is not in the fruit, but in the Gospel and the Spirit of God. *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5 (NIV)*. It is in the amazing love of God that would cause him to humble himself and die on a cross for our sins. It is in the glorious truth of our holiness in Christ and our right-standing before God, our adoption as sons and daughters, and God's awe-some forgiveness of our filthy, death-deserving, God-hating sins.

I know that this is not a new concept to most people, but I will leave you with this encouragement: if you find yourself discouraged in your Christian walk, or seeking to improve yourself in an area where you are lacking, gaze first upon the Gospel. Put aside, for a moment, the pursuit of a virtue and first pursue Christ. The Gospel is not just a truth that we believed upon for our salvation, but it is "the power of God" (Rom 1:16, 1 Cor. 1:18). We may not find perfection in ourselves this side of heaven, but we will never be disappointed if we seek out the depths of God's perfect and immense love for us.

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Save The Date!

CPFI 2013 Annual Conference, Bonclarken Conference Center
Flat Rock, North Carolina
June 6 to June 9, 2013

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Colorado Spring, CO
June 7 to June 10, 2012

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