

Volume 1 – Day 26: Nurturing the Fruitless Branch

There are only two reasons for a branch of a good vine not to bear fruit. Firstly because it is not actually attached. It's not a part of the vine. It has no spiritual connection. It has no sap connection. This is speaking metaphorically of a religious person who claims to know God, He thinks something like this, "I'm a believer because I go to church." Yet he has never had a salvation experience. If you're not connected to God in life, you're not connected in the after life and there is absolutely no fruit of the Presence of God in you.

The second reason for a branch not bearing fruit is because it's hanging down. Sap naturally rises to the highest point. If a branch is hanging down, its fruit is diminished. So you may have a part of your life that is not fruitful, because actually it needs to be lifted up. So what part of your life right now is not fruitful? It just needs to be lifted up. That's what encouragement is about.

The church should be the best organization on earth for encouragement. When you see someone's life not being fruitful, you've just got to help them lift that piece up. It is not a time for criticism or judgment. Jesus paid for all that and took all guilt, shame and punishment upon Himself. It is time to help the unfruitful plug into more of the love of God. Only that (sap) can restore.

So that branch that is not receiving the life giving sap needs to be lifted up and trained at a higher level. The distinguishing difference between Christianity and all other religions is that its only ingredient is love (the unconditional love of God which by-product is grace, favoring the undeserving). How opposite! But.... How magnificent!

My Confirming Scriptures:

My Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan