



40 DAYS *Prayer*

October 19 - November 27

Morning prayer

- Pause and be still – recenter scattered senses
- Rejoice with a Psalm and reflect on scripture
- Ask God for help in your life
- Yield to God's will in your life



Evening prayer

- Reflect on the day that has passed
- Rejoice in God's goodness
- Repent of sins, receiving forgiveness
- Rest in readiness for sleep

Jesus Followers

The background features several large, overlapping organic shapes. On the left, a dark red shape curves upwards. In the center, a dark brown shape overlaps with a teal shape on the right. Below these, a lighter brown shape curves across the bottom. The overall composition is abstract and layered.

Jesus Followers

God Does the Same
Work In You and

Having the Mind of Christ

Eight Axioms to Cultivate a Robust Faith

Ben Sternke and Matt Tebbe



1. God is always present and at work.



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- 2. God is just like Jesus.**



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- 1. God is always present and at work.**
- 2. God is just like Jesus.**
- 3. God meets us in our messy reality**
- 4. God cares more about all of that than I do**



5. God does the same work through you He does in you.



- 5. God does the same work through you He does in you.**
- 6. God's love always reckons with power.**



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- 7. We learn to love through embodied participation.**



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- 6. God's love always reckons with power.**
- 7. We learn to love through embodied participation.**
- 8. God is love, so it is all about love.**



THE PROBLEM: There are painful consequences when our walk does not align with our talk.



¹“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.

² For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. ³ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?



Matthew 7:1-5

⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.



Matthew 7:1-5

**“God does the same work
through us and in us.”**



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THE CONSEQUENCES: They go further than the first-generation because we reproduce who we are.



We teach what we know, we train
what we do, and **we disciple
what we are.**



Scripture is full of organic metaphors that demonstrate this truth.

- Good soil produces good crops (Luke 8:11-15)
- A good tree produces good fruit (Matthew 7:15-20)



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- Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:33-37)
- A branch cannot bear fruit unless it abides in the vine (John 15:1-8)



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THE SOLUTION: A Fully Integrated Life



“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.
² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce
fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they
will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned
and purified by the message I have given you.



John 15:1-8

⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches.



John 15:1-8

Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.



John 15:1-8

⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸
When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.
This brings great glory to my Father.



John 15:1-8

⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. **For apart from me you can do nothing.**



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John 15 continues with some images of how to go about abiding in Jesus as He abides in us.

- Verse 9 - “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”
- Verse 10 - “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love.”



John 15 continues with some images of how to go about abiding in Jesus as He abides in us.

- Verse 12 - “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
- Verse 17 - “I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”



“Being involved in God’s mission is much more like telling people about the amazing restaurant you dined at last night (and inviting them to come along with you tonight!) than trying to sell timeshares to a resort you never plan to visit.”

- Ben Sternke and Matt Tebbe



**Is there a work God wants
to do in you?**

**An area of obedience or surrender
that he is calling you to?**



**Maybe there is a work God wants
to do through you in the life of
another person or situation?**



**“God does the same work
through us and in us.”**



