

the leaves to remove the accumulated dust so that the vine would remain healthy. When Christ spoke of the Father cleansing the vine so that it would be fruitful, He had in mind the Father's work of removing from the branch anything that would interfere with the production of fruit.

The disciples were all clean meaning all saved except Judas Iscariot. The truth that our Lord communicated to them was a cleansing agent that would make it possible for them to be fruitful.

John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me."

"Abide" is the verb *meno* in John 15:4 is used metaphorically and expresses the analogy that just as a branch must "remain" on a vine in order for it to produce fruit so the believer must "remain" in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ in order that the Holy Spirit might produce the character of Christ in the believer's life.

Apart from the ultimate source the branch does not have the power to bear fruit by itself. But if it remains on the vine (in fellowship, spirit filled), then you will be able to produce the fruit (divine good).

Abiding in Christ demands walking through life by means of faith.

Let's look up some passages pertaining to faith....

2 Cor. 5:7

Col. 2:6-7

Heb. 11:1

Heb. 11:6

Heb. 11:8