


## Introduction

Jesus says,

- I AM The Bread Of Life. (John 6:35) … Dec. 27 & 28, 2025.
- I AM The Light Of The World. (John 8:12) … Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2026.
- I AM The Gate. (John 10:9 NIV) …Feb 21 & 22, 2026.
- I AM The Good Shepherd. (John 10:11) … May 2 & 3, 2026.
- I AM The Resurrection and The Life. (John 11:25-26) ... July 4 & 5, 2026.
- I AM The Way, The Truth, and The Life. (John 14:6) ... Sept 5&6, 2026.
- **I AM The Vine. (John 15:5) ... Today's Message.**

## John 15:1-8 (CSB)

***1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.***

## Brief Background of "I AM"

- The phrase "I am" directly translates "*ego eimi*" in Greek.
- God explicitly reveals his name, "I AM," in the Old Testament in Exodus 3:13–15.
- Jesus is literally and actually equating himself with God and declaring himself to be God.
- He's plainly stating that the "I AM" of the Old Testament is here with you and speaking to you right now.

## The Four Characters in the Metaphor

- **The Vine: Jesus**

***"I am the true vine…" (John 15:1a)***

Its primary role is to give life to every part, including the branches, so they can bear fruit.

- **The Gardener: the Father**

***"...my Father is the gardener." (John 15:1b)***

The gardener's main role is to care for the vine, and one of his major tasks is to prune the branches so they bear much fruit.

- **The Branches: the Believers**

***"...you are the branches…" (John 15:5a CSB)***

The main role of the branches is to remain in the vine…to abide in the vine…to stay continually connected to the vine so they can bear fruit.

Three Basic Views on the Fruitless Branches

***"If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).***

"Will you lose your salvation as a believer if you do not remain in Jesus?"

There are three possible views

- The first view is that you are not eternally secure despite being a believer. In other words, you may lose your salvation. This view, however, contradicts other passages in the Bible.

  *"I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1:6)."*

  *"27 My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand (John 10:27-29)."*

- The second view is that "fruitless branches" refers only to nominal Christians. They are Christians in name only, identifying themselves as believers but not truly believing.

- The third view is that the passage focuses not on a believer's salvation but on his role as a fruit-bearer. His works will be burned if he does them on his own efforts rather than relying on Jesus.

(Source: James M. Boice, The Gospel of John, An Expositional Commentary, p. 1168-1169)

- **<u>The Fruit: Anything from a Believer's Life that Brings Glory to God</u>**

The main role of the fruit is to be consumed and enjoyed by others. The fruit of believers is meant to glorify God.

***"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you (John 15:7)."***

## <u>Three Spiritual Principles for Life Application</u>

- **Your fruitfulness completely depends on your relationship with Jesus.**

***"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me." (John 15:5)***

The key word in this verse is "*remain*." To remain means staying connected to Christ in fellowship, allowing His life to work in and through us to bear fruit.

(Source: Be Transformed by Warren Wiersbie, p. 41).

As a believer, how can you remain connected with Jesus?

- By having an inward (heart-to-heart) connection with Jesus through prayer.
- By being in the Word daily.
- By connecting with the church—the body of Christ.

**Application Questions:**

1. Is spending time with Jesus and staying close to him your top priority each day?
2. Do you pause and pray before deciding whether to take on new opportunities?
3. Do you regularly take breaks from work to enjoy God's gifts, like nature, music, or good meals with friends?
4. When you feel stressed or upset at work, do you stop to calm down, pray, or talk with close friends?
5. Do you think about God throughout your normal day, like while working, doing chores, or spending time with others?

(Source: The Emotionally Healthy Leader by Peter Scazzero, p. 121-122, 141-142)

- **Your fruitfulness requires loving pruning from the Father.**

  ***"My Father is the gardener. 2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit." (John 15:1b-2)***

  Pruning is a painful process. No one likes to be cut and trimmed. But it is necessary to make room for growth and fruit-bearing.

  How does the Father prune you?

  - He prunes you by correcting your ways through his Word.
  - He prunes you by allowing temptations and trials to visit your life.
  - He prunes you by removing your idols from your heart. Your idols may include people, power, money, fame, or anything you value more than God.

- **Your fruitfulness brings glory to the Father.**

  ***"My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8)***

  God the Father receives all the glory when you bear fruit and show that you belong to him with your godly life.

**Conclusion**

- Are you in a personal relationship with Jesus?
- If not, I encourage you to believe in him and accept him as your personal Lord and Savior.
- This step of faith marks the beginning of your journey to relate to Jesus and bear fruit for God's glory.
- To most of us who are already believers by God's grace, let's remain in Jesus and live for God's glory.
- And let's share the good news with those who are not yet in a relationship with him.

Let's pray.

Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
November 7 & 8, 2026

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1. Good News Class is every Sunday at 11:00 am. This is mainly for anyone who wants to know more about the good news of Jesus.

- JOY Cafe is open for Gospel Sharing and Prayer every Sunday, after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am worship services.

# Welcome FIRST TIME guests!

Thank you for visiting. Please send an email to gift@tokyobaptist.org for a free gift.

**First time guest Connection:**

## COMMITMENT CARD

If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, let us know!

Email: cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://gotbc.org/cc to let us know!

## TBC Life SIGN-UP

weekly email news

gotbc.org/tbclife

## TBC Calendar

https://tokyobaptist.org/calendar

All events in one place!

## TBC BASE CLASSES

class 402 Evangelism

Nov. 15th, (Sun)
1pm - 4pm

class 201 Maturity

Nov. 28th, (Sat)
1:30pm - 5:30pm

gotbc.org/classes

## Small Groups Info

**SG Lesson**

gotbc.org/sg4526p

**Find an SG**

gotbc.org/sgsu

## CO42 PRAYER REQUESTS

so that as a church we can pray for you! Col 4:2

gotbc.org/co42

YEP - Corporate Gathering -12/31

## For Online Giving please visit:

https://tokyobaptist.org/give

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