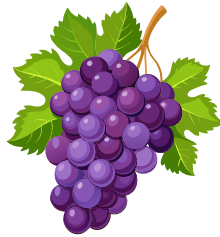


The True Vine



By

Rev. Andrew Murray

Original Publisher
New York, Chicago, Toronto
Fleming H. Revell Company
Publishers of Evangelical Literature
Original Copyright, 1898

Public Domain Title
Author: Andrew Murray

Copyright © 2024 Rev. Andrew Walmsley for additional sections

All additional sections in this publication, including but not limited to the foreword, annotations and information, are copyrighted by Rev. Andrew Walmsley. No part of the additional sections may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission from the copyright holder.

The public domain parts of this work may be used freely.

Image of grape taken from Pixabay and used with permission.

This work, either print or as an electronic file, is provided for your personal use and enjoyment only. Redistribution without permission is prohibited.

For permissions and inquiries, please contact:
contact@eternalpublishing.com
www.eternalpublishing.com

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-917325-13-4
ePub ISBN: 978-1-917325-14-1

Contents

	4
Foreword	5
A Poem : The True Vine	7
Preface	9
Daily	11
Readings	11
John 15	12
1st Day The Vine	13
2nd Day The Gardener	15
3rd Day The Branch	17
4th Day The Fruit	19
5th Day More Fruit	21
6th Day The Cleansing	23
7th Day The Pruning Knife	25
8th Day Abide	27
9th Day Accept You Abide	29
10th Day I The Vine	32
11th Day You The Branches	35
12th Day Much Fruit	38
13th Day You Can Do Nothing	40
14th Day Withered Branches	42
15th Day Whatsoever You Will	44
	46

16th Day If You Abide	47
17th Day The Father Glorified	50
18th Day True Disciples	52
19th Day The Wonderful Love	54
20th Day Abide In My Love	56
21st Day Obey and Abide	58
22nd Day Even as I	61
23rd Day Joy	63
24th Day Love One Another	65
25th Day Even as I have love You	67
26th Day Christ's Friendship: Its Origin	69
27th Day Christ's Friendship: Its Evidence	71
28th Day Christ's Friendship: Its Intimacy	73
29th Day Election	75
30th Day Abiding Fruit	77
31st Day Prevailing Prayer	79

Foreword

Andrew Murray (1828–1917)

This book written by Andrew Murray in 1898 focuses on the well know passage from John 15, The Vine and the Branches. We have republished this to allow readers today to be able to read and reflect on these words of wisdom.

Evangelist, Author, and Theologian

Andrew Murray was a prominent 19th-century South African evangelist, author, and theologian whose deep spiritual insight and commitment to the Christian faith left a lasting impact on both the church in South Africa and worldwide. Born in the early 19th century, he is best remembered for his role in the spiritual revival of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa and his prolific writings on prayer, spiritual growth, and holiness.

Early Life and Education

Andrew Murray was born on May 9, 1828, in Graaff-Reinet, a town in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. He was the son of Andrew Murray Sr., a Dutch Reformed Church missionary, and Maria de Smit, both of whom were deeply involved in the religious and educational life of the community. Raised in a devout Christian home, Murray's early years were shaped by the Bible and the theological discussions around him.

Murray first attended the University of Aberdeen for his initial education before moving on to attend the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, where he studied theology. After completing his studies in 1848, he returned to South Africa and was ordained as a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at the age of 20.

Ministry and Writings

Murray's early ministry was marked by a deep passion for

revival and spiritual renewal. He began his pastoral work in the rural regions of the Eastern Cape in South Africa. In 1860 he took on the pastorate in Worcester and played a key role in the South African revival of 1860.

Andrew Murray was a prolific author, writing more than 250 books and pamphlets throughout his life. His works focus on themes of prayer, sanctification, the Christian life, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Among his most influential works are; *With Christ in the School of Prayer* (1885), *The New Life* (1891), *Absolute Surrender* (1895), as well as his study on Hebrews *The Holiest of All* (1895). These books are still widely read and studied today by Christians seeking to deepen their spiritual lives.

A Poem : The True Vine

ONLY A BRANCH

"I am the Vine, you are the Branches." John 15.5

'Tis only a little Branch,
A thing so fragile and weak,
But that little Branch hath a message true
To give, could it only speak.

"I'm only a little Branch,
I live by a life not mine,
For the sap that flows through my tendrils small
Is the life-blood of the Vine.

"No power indeed have I
The fruit of myself to bear.
But since I'm part of the living Vine,
Its fruitfulness I share.

"Dost thou ask how I abide?
How this life I can maintain?
I am bound to the Vine by life's strong band,
And I only need remain.

"Where first my life was given.
In the spot where I am set,
Upborne and upheld as the days go by.
By the stem which bears me yet.

"I fear not the days to come,
I dwell not upon the past,
As moment by moment I draw a life,
Which for evermore shall last.

"I bask in the sun's bright beams,
Which with sweetness fills my fruit.
Yet I own not the clusters hanging there,
For they all come from the root."

A life which is not my own,
But another's life in me :
This, this is the message the Branch would speak,
A message to thee and me.

O struggle not to "abide,"
Nor labor to "bring forth fruit,"
But let Jesus unite thee to Himself,
As the Vine Branch to the root.

So simple, so deep, so strong
That union with Him shall be:
His life shall forever replace thine own,
And His love shall flow through thee.

For His Spirit's fruit is love,
And love shall thy life become,
And for evermore on His heart of love
Thy spirit shall have her home.

Freda Hanbury.

Preface

Not long after the publication of *Abide in Christ*, I received a request to prepare an edition, shorter and simpler, for the use of young people who know and love the Lord Jesus. I was never able to do this. Since that time the wonderful parable which was the text of that book, with its Divine simplicity and its inexhaustible riches, has been becoming more precious than ever. I feel as if there is not a passage in God's Word in which our union to Christ Jesus, with its call to entire consecration, its privileges of unbounded confidence, its power of abounding joy, much fruitfulness, and prevailing prayer, is put with equal clearness or force.

And I have felt drawn to try to write what young Christians might easily apprehend, as a help to them to take up that position in which the Christian life must be a success. It is as if there is not one of the principal temptations and failures of the Christian life that is not met here. The nearness, the all-sufficiency, the faithfulness of the Lord Jesus, the naturalness, the fruitfulness of a life of faith, are so revealed, that it is as if one could with confidence say, Let the parable enter into the heart, and all will be right.

May the blessed Lord give the blessing. May He teach us to study the mystery of the Vine in the spirit of , worship, waiting for God's own teaching.

Daily



Readings

John 15

John 15:1–16 (Web English Bible)

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer. ²Every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch can’t bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me. ⁵I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If a man doesn’t remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you.

⁸“In this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples. ⁹Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn’t know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. ¹⁶You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you will ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

1st Day

The Vine



I am the true vine

John 15.1

All earthly things are the shadows of heavenly realities, the expression, in created, visible forms, of the invisible glory of God. The Life and the Truth are in heaven; on earth we have figures and shadows of the heavenly truths. When Jesus says: I am the True Vine, He tells us that all the vines of earth are pictures and emblems of Himself. He is the Divine reality, of which they are the created expression. They all point to Him, and preach Him, and reveal Him. If you would know Jesus, study the vine.

How many eyes have gazed on and admired the great vine at Hampton Court, with its beautiful fruit. Come and gaze on the Heavenly Vine till your eye turns from all else to admire Him. How many, in a sunny clime, sit and rest under the shadow of their vine. Come and be still under the shadow of the True Vine, and rest under it from the heat of the day. What countless numbers rejoice in the fruit of the vine. Come, and take, and eat of the heavenly fruit of the True Vine, and let your soul say: I sat under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste.

I am the true vine. This is a heavenly mystery. The earthly vine can teach you much about this Vine of Heaven. Many interesting and beautiful points of comparison suggest themselves, and help us to get conceptions of what Christ meant. But such thoughts do not teach us to know what the Heavenly Vine really is, in its cooling shade, and its life-giving

fruit. The experience of this is part of the hidden mystery, which none but Jesus Himself, by His Holy Spirit, can unfold and impart.

I am the true vine. The vine is the Living Lord, who Himself speaks, and gives, and works all that He has for us. If you would know the meaning and power of that word, do not think to find it by thought or study; these may help to show you what you must get from Him, to awaken desire and hope and prayer, but they cannot show you the Vine.

Jesus alone can reveal Himself. He gives His Holy Spirit to open the eyes to gaze upon Himself, to open the heart to receive Himself. He must Himself speak the word to you and me.

I am the true vine. And what am I to do, if I want the mystery, in all its heavenly beauty and blessing, opened up to me? With what you already know of the parable, bow down and be still, worship and wait, until the Divine Word enters your heart, and you feel His Holy Presence with you, and in you. The overshadowing of His Holy Love will give you the perfect calm and rest of knowing that the Vine will do all.

I am the true vine. He who speaks is God, in His infinite power able to enter into us. He is man, one with us. He is the Crucified One, who won a perfect righteousness and a Divine life for us through His death. He is the glorified One, who from the throne gives His Spirit to make His presence real and true. He speaks - oh! listen, not to His words only, but to Himself, as He whispers secretly day by day: I am the True Vine. All that the Vine can ever be to its branch, I will be to you.

Holy Lord Jesus! the Heavenly Vine of God's own planting, I beseech Thee, reveal Thyself to my soul. Let the Holy Spirit, not in thought, but in experience, give me to know all that Thou, the Son of God, art to me as the True Vine.

2nd Day

The Gardener



And my Father is the gardener

John 15.1

A vine must have a gardener¹, to plant and watch over it, to receive and rejoice in its fruit. Jesus says: "My Father is the gardener." He was "the Vine of God's planting." All He was and did, He owed to the Father; in all He only sought the Father's will and glory. He had become man to show us what a creature ought to be to its Creator. He took our place, and the spirit of His life before the Father was ever what He seeks to make ours:

"Of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things." He became the True Vine, that we might be true Branches. Both in regard to Christ and ourselves the words teach us the two lessons of absolute dependence and perfect confidence.

My Father is the gardener. Christ ever lived in the spirit of what He once said: "The Son can do nothing of Himself." As dependent as a vine is on a gardener for the place where it is to grow, for its fencing in and watering and pruning, Christ felt Himself entirely dependent on the Father every day for the wisdom and the strength to do the Father's will. As He said in the previous chapter (14.10): "The words that I say unto you, I speak not from Myself; but the Father abiding in Me doeth His works." This absolute dependence had as its blessed counterpart the most blessed confidence that He had nothing to fear: the Father could not disappoint Him.

With such a gardener as His Father, He could enter death

¹ The term 'gardener' can vary depending on the translation used: gardener, farmer, or vinedresser.

and the grave. He could trust God to raise Him up. All that Christ is and has, He has, not in Himself, but from the Father.

My Father is the gardener. That is as blessedly true for us as for Christ. Christ is about to teach His disciples about their being Branches.

Before He ever uses the word, or speaks at all of abiding in Him or bearing fruit, He turns their eyes heavenward to the Father watching over them, and working all in them. At the very root of all Christian life lies the thought that God is to do all, that our one work is to give and leave ourselves in His hands, in the confession of utter helplessness and dependence, in the assured confidence that He gives all we need. The great lack of the Christian life is that, even where we trust Christ, we leave God out of the count. Christ came to bring us to God. Christ lived the life of a man exactly as we have to live it. Christ the Vine points to God the Husband-man. As He trusted God, let us trust God, that everything we ought to be and have, as those who belong to the Vine, will be given us from above.

Isaiah said: "A vineyard of red wine; I the Lord do keep it, I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day." Before we begin to think of fruit or branches, let us have our heart filled with the faith: as glorious as the Vine, is the gardener. As high and holy as is our calling, so mighty and loving is the God who will work it all. As surely as the gardener made the Vine what it was to be, will He make each branch what it is to be. Our Father is our gardener, the Surety for our growth and fruit.

Blessed Father! we are Thy husbandry. Oh! that Thou mayest have honour of the work of Thy hands. O my Father! I desire to open my heart to the joy of this wondrous truth: My Father is the gardener. Teach me to know and trust Thee, and to see that the same deep interest with which Thou caredst for and delightedst in the Vine, extends to every branch, to me too.