I AM- The Vine

4 ...he (Jesus) got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:4-5

"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." John 13:8

he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:7

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 1 Corinthians 2:9

We live for the glory of God and the good of others.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:1-11

Only as we remain in Jesus will we even know what true and complete joy is.

One of the ways that we have confused ourselves as Christians is by <u>exchanging</u> the blessings that we receive with the fruit that we produce.

The fruit of our faithfulness to Jesus is in what we <u>produce</u> with our lives and not in what we receive in our lives.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, Galatians 5:22

We are the intermediaries of God's goodness to the world.

The <u>presence</u> or lack of fruit in your life will help you <u>determine</u> whether or not you have continued to abide in Christ.