

HOLY SPIRIT: UNION VS. COMMUNION

The parable of the Vine and the Branches in John 15:1-9 is a teaching on the fruit bearing work of Holy Spirit. Jesus prayed for the Father to send the Holy Spirit “that He may abide with you forever” (John 14:16). That has to do with your union with Christ. Jesus also spoke of the fruit by the Holy Spirit in a believer. “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me” (John 15:4). That has to do with your communion with Christ. Abiding in Christ involves communion with Christ through the Holy spirit related to prayer and the Word of God. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:4, 7). There are two questions for you to answer. Question #1: Do you have the Holy Spirit? If you have the Holy Spirit, you are saved. You are in union with Christ by the grace of God. Question #2: Does the Holy Spirit have you? If the Holy Spirit has you, you are actively involved in the process of growing in Christ. You are in communion with Christ through the Word of God and prayer. These activities are not legalistic duties to a law but loving devotions to the Savior by surrendering to His lordship. The filling of the Spirit and the lordship of Christ mean the same thing. The fruit of the Spirit is love of Christ in us and through us, and it is through that love that we show we are His disciples and bring glory to the Father (I John 15:8-10).