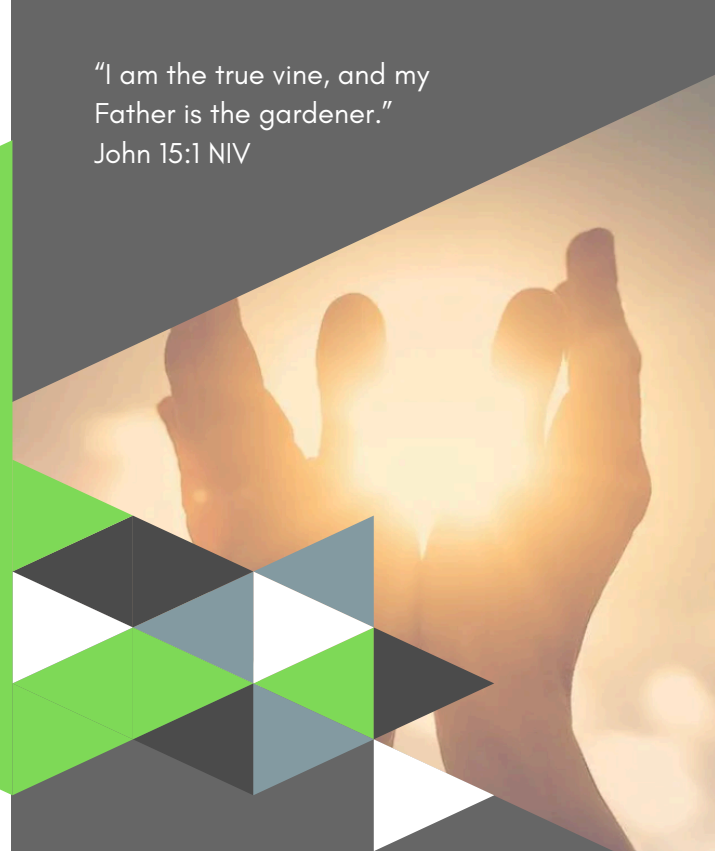




## KEY OF SUCCESS

**It is critical to remember that if one wants a successful and thriving marriage, one must continually grow through both personal and marriage practices of spiritual disciplines.**

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."  
John 15:1 NIV*



## John 15: 1-7 NIV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"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. 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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

### READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 3:16

### SILENCE, SOLITUDE, AND MEDITATION

Matthew 11:28

### PRAYER

Hebrews 4:16

### FASTING

Philippians 3:19

### CONFESSION

Proverbs 28:13

### FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:42

### WORSHIP

1 Chronicles 16:29

### CELEBRATION

Philippians 4:4

### SERVICE

Colossians 3:23-24

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## DIFFERENT BRANCHES FOR EACH SEASON

In every season of your life, you will have different branches. Some may seem bare, some budding, and some fruitful. However, no matter what season you are in, remember that your trellis of support, through a firm foundation of spiritual disciplines, is key to ensuring continued growth and connection to the vine.



## IMPORTANCE OF A TRELLIS

Trellis are important for the branches as it allows them to grow and thrive. Without a trellis, the branches will bear incredible weight from them sitting on top of another and will eventually break from the vine. A marriage's utilization of spiritual disciplines will help to build and maintain their trellis' structure and sustainability.



## BARE BRANCHES

These branches are connected to the vine but are yet to bear fruit. This can be a season of strife, trial, and struggle. Just because your branches do not have fruit, does not mean that God is not teaching you something in this season. Sometimes bare branches are a stripping down by God to reset you and prepare you for the next season.



## BRANCHES WITHOUT FRUIT

The next set of branches are one with budding leaves but no fruit. This can be a season of growth, but yet the fruit of the labor is not yet there. These are season of encouragement that God's timing is perfect as He prepares us for what He has in store for us.



## BRANCHES WITH FRUIT

Seasons of bearing fruit are ones with great prosperity, however, if every season of life produced fruit, we would crowd out the lessons and trials that God has put in our lives. Therefore, we must enjoy the times of bearing fruit, while also seeing the joys in the trials that got us there.

## EVERY SEASON IS UNIQUE

Keeping high regard for spiritual disciplines is one of the best ways to remain connected to the vine. As John writes, we must ensure that we are always within His vine, as that is the life source. Our marriages must always remain in Him through their connection to the vine, as well. A word of caution, however, is to ensure that you are always building your won trellis, no premade trellis will ever be able to more perfectly bare your branches than the one you and your spouse build together.