



[John 15:4-8](#)

(4) Dwell in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you are dwelling in Me. (5) I am the vine, and you are the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up; and men gather them and cast them into a fire, and they are burned. (7) If you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you, you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you. (8) In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples.

A Faithful Version

Grafting is the process of joining two plants together so tightly that they grow together into one. The upper branch, called a scion, is tightly bound to the trunk of another plant, the rootstock. The bark is peeled where the two plants join to expose and align the cambium, the thin ribbon of actively dividing cells that produce conductive tissue for the actively growing plant. The two plants' tightly compressed cambiums develop finger-like tissues that grow together into a grafted union.

The practice of grafting has been used to accelerate fruitfulness, improve growth rates, and increase hardiness. Three key factors will result in successful grafting:

- The first factor is compatibility. The closer the two plants are alike, the higher the success rate. One cannot take a palm tree and successfully graft it to a grapevine.

- The second factor is alignment and pressure. The two plants must remain tightly bound, and their cambiums must line up as closely as possible.
- The third factor is proper care of the graft site. The grafter must keep the joint alive, hydrated, and free of disease while the two plants grow together.

These three key success factors of a physical graft are the same elements required for a successful *spiritual* graft. The first, compatibility and likeness: Paul tells us, as the root is holy, so too must the branches be holy. [God](#) has called us to become holy, and if we desire [holiness](#), we must plant holiness! Growing holiness is expensive because it costs us our complete devotion. We must learn to love—as God so loves us—sacrificing and holding nothing back! We must lay down our lives for each other ([John 15:13](#)).

The second success factor, alignment and pressure: The more tightly pressed together we are to Christ—the more we love Him and strive to emulate Him—the more aligned we are with Him and His way of life and the tighter our grafted union grows.

The third success factor, keep the joint alive, hydrated, and free of disease: It takes daily care—prayer, meditation, study, and occasional fasting—to ensure our grafted union remains active, nourished, and healthy through the Spirit of God and His living Word. These things, along with putting the things of God into practice as we learn them, help us develop and maintain the [right attitude](#) to bear much fruit. Through our strengthening grafted union to [Jesus Christ](#), we receive the nourishment to produce the daily fruit of self-sacrificial love. This is how we become holy and pleasing to God.

We were the wild, unfruitful branches with no potential. But God the Father, the Vinedresser, called us and peeled back our thick, carnal, and sinful bark. Through the sacrificial death of our Savior and the New Covenant, He bound us tightly together in a grafted union to the holy Root. Through Him, we receive the spiritual nourishment and water of life (see [Revelation 22:1](#)) required to grow together and produce fruit.

The apostle James uses a similar metaphor of implanting or engrafting, this time in reference to God's Word: "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with [meekness](#) the implanted [*engrafted* , KJV] word, which is able to save your souls" ([James 1:21](#)).

We must work harder to remain aligned with Him in all things. As mentioned, the cost of holiness is complete, self-sacrificial love. If we hold back love or forgiveness, we cannot be in Him. If we put anything in [this world](#) over our relationship with Him, we cannot be in Him. As James urges, we must [repent](#) of everything in us that is not like Christ.

We must reach out to Him with all our might and literally cling to Him! He is our *everything*, and without Him, we can do *nothing*! As we abide in Him, He abides in us. As we draw near to God, He draws near to us ([James 4:8](#)). In this way, our grafted union will grow strong as we produce the righteous fruit that pleases Him.

We are the branch of God's planting, grafted into His Family. As we humble ourselves and embrace His engrafted Word of life, we grow in union with Him, transformed into righteous, holy branches that produce the self-sacrificial fruit of love. One day soon, the branches of God's planting will inherit the land forever and glorify our great God and Father!

— Bill Onisick

To learn more, see:

[The Branch of God's Planting](#)

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[Alignment with God's Spirit](#)

[Becoming Holy](#)

[Branches Grafted In](#)

[Drawing Close to God](#)

[Drawing Near to God](#)

[Following Christ's Example of Self-sacrifice](#)

[Grafting Branches Analogy](#)

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