

1/5/2025

NOW OR NEVER

PART I: I WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY

John 15:4-5 (NLT). Remain in me, and I will <u>remain</u> in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you <u>remain in me</u>. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

REMEMBER: If this year is going to be our best year, then it will have to be our best year spiritually.

John 15:4-5 (MSG). "Live [abide] in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce [do] a thing.

To remain (original: "meno"): To stay, to wait in anticipation, to remain in spite of, to make one's home in, to persist, to stay a little longer.

Remaining in God is the master key that opens all the other doors of our life.

Matthew 6:33. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

FOUR WAYS TO REMAIN IN THIS 2025:

1. [PRAY] AND READ HIS WORD DAILY.

James 4:8 (NLT). Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

Psalm 145:18 (NLT). The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.

2. [WORSHIP] GOD IN HIS HOUSE WEEKLY.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT). All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

Psalm 84:10 (NLT). A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

3. [SERVE] OTHERS REGULARLY.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT). God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

4. CONSISTENT [COMMUNITY] IN A CONNECTION GROUP.

Spiritual growth happens best in community, not in isolation.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV). And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

