



“Walking By the Spirit” Series: Mature Dependence

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

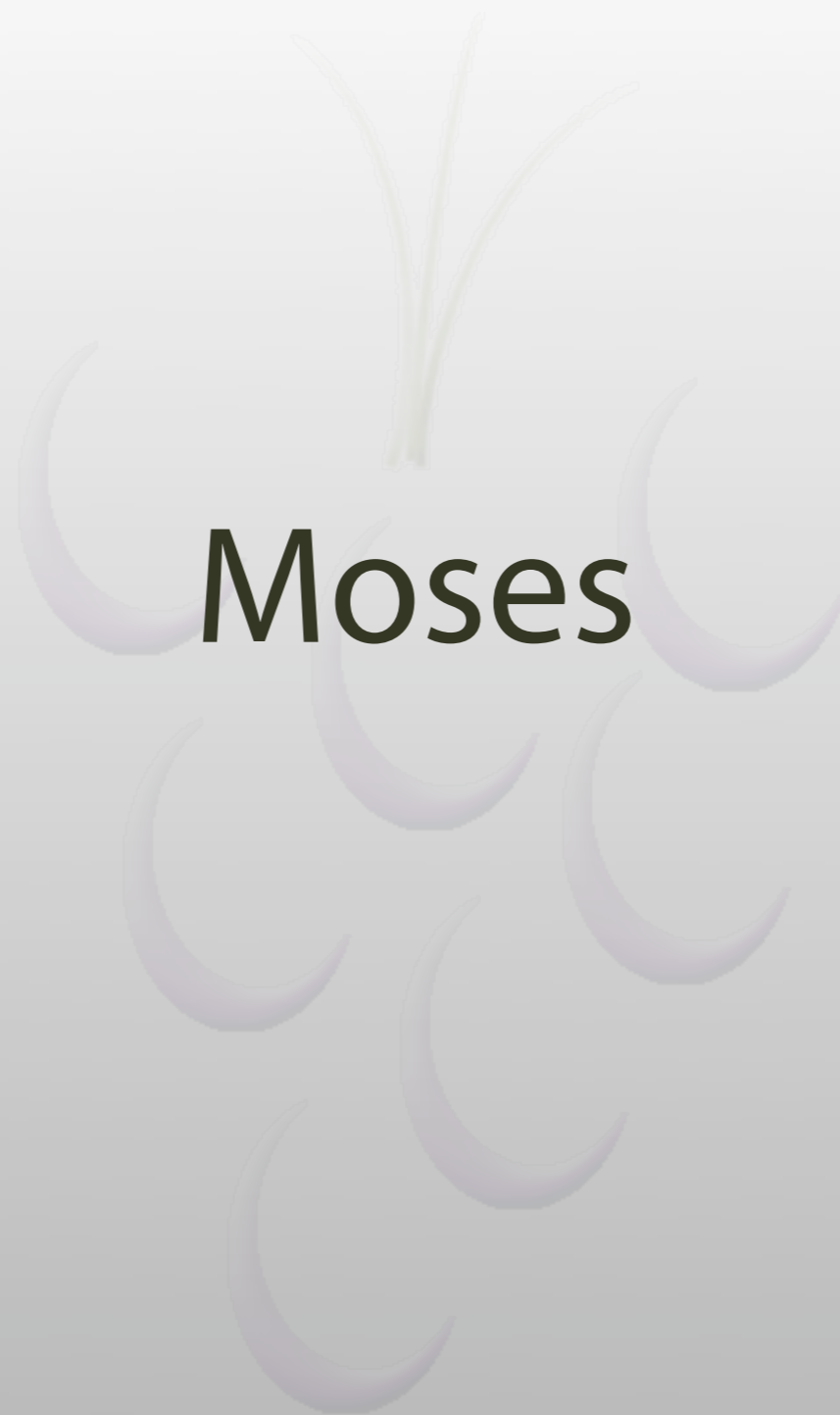


John 15:5

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Examples of Maturity





David

“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.... By myself I can do nothing.”

John 5:19,30

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"When it comes to living the Christian life, we will 'drown' until we learn to depend totally on Christ. Even He did not live an independent spiritual life. Everything He did — His words, actions, plans, and initiatives — were all carried out in dependence on the Father. In fact, Jesus told the disciples that even the Holy Spirit who was coming to live in them would not speak on His own initiative — He would speak only what He heard the Father say (John

David Jeremiah

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say (John 16:30). If Jesus lived a dependent life, so should we.

"The world equates independence with maturity. But in the kingdom of God, dependence [on Christ in us] equals maturity."

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Apart From Me You Can Do Nothing



Recognize that All Good Things
Come from God

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied,

Deuteronomy 8:10-14, 17-18

then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery... You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today."

Deuteronomy 8:10-14, 17-18



Recognize What “Nothing” Means

“But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone's work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value. If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builders themselves will be saved, but like someone escaping through a wall of flames.”

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 (NLT)



Our Responsibility: Abide

“Every element of our own self-reliance must be put to death by the power of God. The moment we recognize our complete weakness and our dependence upon Him will be the very moment that the Spirit of God will exhibit His power.”

A.W. Tozer

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