During the summer months, I love to work in my garden. I have a variety of vegetables, such as jalapeño peppers, cucumbers, banana peppers, and tomatoes. The vegetables that interest me the most are my tomato plants because they grow on a vine. Each spring I plant a variety of tomatoes, and each one requires me to bury 80% of the plant. It seems excessive but it is what the plant needs to have strong roots.

After nurturing the plants with water and a lot of prayer, I typically receive a huge harvest that I share with family and friends. The interesting thing I notice about my tomato plants is the fact that they depend on the vine for nutrition. If the fruit of those plants get separated from the vine, they will shrivel and die, so I am careful to keep both the fruit and vine healthy. Unfortunately, I have seen more tomatoes fall off the plants and die because of insects, birds, or animals.

John 15:1-5 describes our walk with Jesus as a vine and branches. We are the fruit, or in this case, tomatoes. We need protection and nourishment that only Christ can provide. If for whatever reason we separate from him, we have no lifeline. Because temptation will come your way and attempt to rob you of this wonderful connection, Jesus asks us to pray so we can remain in him. Remember, a little pruning from Jesus will help you produce a lot of fruit for others. Without him, you can do nothing.

Life Question: In what ways could you be a blessing to others?

Prayer: Lord, help us be a blessing to others and remain faithful to you. Amen.

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