

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Title:** Vintage Faith Redux  
**Speaker:** Matt Ewert  
**Text:** John 15; Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 5:22-23  
**Date:** June 10, 2018



## WARM-UP

- Perhaps you have marked the progress of your children's physical growth on a doorpost. For instance, one of our grandchildren grew almost two inches in this past year! That's quite a bit of transformation. Brag about your kids' growth.
- Without checking back, can you remember the three priority areas we have been pursuing at South Abbotsford in this past ministry year?

## DISCUSSION

### Quick Review:

Reread John 15:1-16

### Contrasting meaningful transformation from self-righteous works:

- **Self-righteous works:**
  - ⇒ What I accomplish in my own strength
  - ⇒ Appearance of fruitfulness
  - ⇒ Outward labor to create an illusion
  - ⇒ Manufacturing fake results that look like real fruit
- **Meaningful spiritual transformation:**
  - ⇒ Ephesians 2:10 – Workmanship created by God's preparation for "good works."
  - ⇒ John 15:4 – Abiding, remaining in the vine
    - \* An inward sap – branches connected to the trunk
    - \* A deep abiding in Jesus; Jesus abiding in us
    - \* "I can do nothing..." John 15:5
  - ⇒ Galatians 5:22-23 – An honest assessment of "real" transformation
    - \* Nine markers of fruitfulness that demonstrate that we are Jesus' disciples (John 15:8)

### Applications and Ponderings:

- Our current three priorities at South Abbotsford are: Prayer Engagement; Holy Spirit Empowerment; Difference-Making Faith. Reflect back on this past ministry year (September to June); where have we seen transformation (real fruit)?
  - ⇒ As a church community?
  - ⇒ As a Life Group?
  - ⇒ As an individual? How would you measure your spiritual transformation in this past year on your own doorpost?

For your own encouragement, you can review Ruth Sherwood's testimony at [southabbotsford.com/churchnews](http://southabbotsford.com/churchnews)