

## Pruning by our Heavenly Father

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### John 15:1-8

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. NKJV*

I met with a long time friend and minister, Pastor Greg Daley (<http://www.seattlerevivalcenter.com/meet-the-team>) for coffee this morning. As Greg prepared for his message last Sunday and he had questions about what he read in scripture studying the original meaning of some of the Greek words. With that in mind he contacted the owner of Narrow Gate Vineyards (<http://www.narrowgatevineyards.com>) and asked him about the pruning process. This is what he learned.



#### **The Vinedresser Prunes Suckers**

Greg said that the owner taught that the vinedresser approaches this process of dressing the vine with love and respect for the vine. The pruning is done carefully. Pruning according to the dictionary means to remove, cut off or trim superfluous or undesirable twigs, branches or roots.

The vinedressers goal is to prune the vine so as to enable it to as productive as possible on its own. They call these undesirable branches "suckers." Suckers hurt the vine three ways.

1. Rob the light
2. Take water
3. Block the breeze

Each of these characteristics has deep spiritual meaning. We can choose to cooperate with the pruning process or we can fight it. Our heavenly Father is the Vinedresser. Cooperating makes the process go much quicker.

#### **What to Do in the Pruning Process**

Have you ever felt like you've entered into a pruning process? I have! But the good news is, whom the Lord loves, He prunes. His goal is to make us fruitful as we live in the vine, Jesus Christ. For it is in Him that we live and move and have our being.

Here are some questions you can ask when you find yourself in a pruning process.

1. What things are there in your life, church, ministry, business, etc. that is blocking the light of God's word?
  - a. Do you hate your brother?
  - b. Are you unequally yoked with unbelievers?
  - c. Are you doing things the bible calls deeds of darkness?
  - d. Are you practicing lawlessness?
  - e. *1 John 2:9-10, 2 Corinthians 6:14, John 3:19,*
  - f. *Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. NKJV*
2. Jesus is the living water (John 4:10). He is the Word of God too (Revelation 19:13). The word of God washes us and sanctifies and cleanses us (Ephesians 5:26).
  - a. What is robbing you from time in God's word?
  - b. What is robbing you from spending time with Jesus in prayer?
3. The Spirit of God is likened unto the wind. He can come as a rushing mighty wind as in Acts 2 (Joel 2:28) or a refreshing gentle breeze exemplified in John 3, Isaiah 28:11-12 and Acts 3:19.
  - a. *John 3:6-8 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." NKJV*
  - b. Have you taken advantage of the prayer language that Holy Spirit has offered us?
  - c. Is there anything hindering the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

### **Pruning for Your Destiny & God's Glory**

The pruning process is ultimately for your destiny and God's glory. He wants you, He desires for you, He longs for you to bear much fruit. He is glorified when you do well.

### **John 15:7-8**

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. NKJV*

The key is to "abide" in Him. Abide comes from the Greek word "meno." Strongs says it means to "stay in a place, a state or relation or expectancy." It means to abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present and remain.

### **Stay Present in His Presence**

If you are in the midst of a pruning process remember that the Vinedresser, our Vinedresser loves you. He wants to you bear much fruit. But, you must abide, stay and endure in a place of relationship and expectancy. You have to stay "present" in His presence; that is abiding.