

# Pruning for Production John 15

John 15:2 *'Every branch beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.'*

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>*

Jesus used the vine to remind us that God is actively at work in our lives in order to encourage us to have productive (fruitful) lives, which results in God's Glory. The extent of our fruitfulness depends on our relationship with Christ (The Vine). (John 15:4) *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."*

Part of the process to prepare us for productive growth involves Pruning (or purging).

### 1. The Point Of Pruning/Purging. Vs 2,3 Kathai'ro, actually has a double meaning:

#### A. To Cleanse: vs 3, 1 Jn 1:5-10

1) It comes from the root word "katharos" meaning to make clean, clear, and pure.

#### B. To Cut: kathairō also means to prune/cut

1) To remove infected branches. (Sin)

2) To redirect unproductive branches. (Self)

### 2. The Purpose of Pruning/Purging. 2,3

#### A. Not Simply To Remove, But To "Renovate" Ro. 12:2 *"transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*

Anakai'nōsis: to renovate, or make new.

#### B. Not to Hurt / Harm us, but to help us to grow.

Jn 15:3 *"He purgeth that it may bring forth more fruit"*

2 Cor 4:17 *"our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"* (See Ro. 8:28)

#### C. Not to Terrorize, but to Test (Prove) us.

Is 48:10-11 *"I have refined thee...; (sārap': purged) I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."*

James 1:2-3 *"Count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations, (peirasmos': putting to proof) Knowing that the trying (doki'mion: testing) of your faith (pistis: conviction/reliance/trust) worketh patience."*

### 3. The Patience of Pruning.

#### A. Patience is related to God's purpose for pruning. Jn 15:3 *"that it may bring forth more fruit"*

Jms 1:4 *"But let patience have her perfect work, (teleios: complete, from telos: to reach the goal) that ye may be perfect and entire, (holok'lēros: from holos {whole} and Kleros {inheritance} lacking nothing."*

1) Sin (hamartano) means to miss the mark and so not receive the prize. 1 Jn 2:1.

It Comes from "a" (no/not) & "meros" (portion)

Would you pay a contractor who failed to finish the job?

2) Satan tempts us to resist/rebel and thus forfeit the prize of Patience. 2 Jn 1:8

*"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full (ple'res: replete) reward."* (misthos': pay for service) See also Heb. 10:35-38

#### B. Patience requires endurance.

1) Patience comes from hypomeno meaning to endure, or to stay under.

Jn 15:4 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."* **Meno: to stay, continue, endure, remain**

(It's used 6 times in Jn 15:4-7) It is the root word in hypomene: (Patience)

2) Endurance is tested under pressure (pruning). (See John 6:66-69)

- 3) God's Grace enables us to become *"more than conquerors through Him that loved us"* Ro. 8:37  
a) "Patience" in James 1:4 isn't just hypomone (endurance) but hypomene: "Cheerful Endurance"  
(see Phil. 2:13-16)

### C. Patience (longsuffering) is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Gal. 5:22,23

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: (self control) against such there is no law."*

#### Conclusion:

**God uses a farmer to illustrate the need for patience (James 5:7-8)**

*"Be patient, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.  
Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."*

- 1) There is a summer season between the pruning and the production of fruit.
- 2) The Harvest Season will eventually come to those who are faithful. (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9)
  - a) Satan often comes to us during the "heat/drought of the summer" trying to get us to quit.  
(the opposite of "abide")

#### Application:

#### What season are you currently in on your spiritual journey?

- 1) Planning? (Ps. 28:18)
- 2) Preparation? (Hab. 10:12)
- 3) Planting? (Gal. 6:7,8)
- 4) Protecting? (Job 1:10)
- 5) Pruning? (Jn 15:1-8)

**In every Season Jesus asks us to:** *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."* John 15:4

### Will you purpose to Abide in /with Christ Or Slide away from Him?

Jn 6:67 "Will ye also go away?"

Mark 14:50 "they all forsook him and fled"

Early in my ministry, I learned about a man named Worrall. He had been stricken with rheumatoid arthritis at age 15, and when I met him 30 years later, he was totally paralyzed except for 1 finger, could barely speak and was totally blind. But he had a string tied to that one mobile finger that could turn on a recorder. He wrote for national magazines, authored books and led a happy and influential life from his bed. This was possible because after initial prayers brought no healing, he accepted his lot graciously and said, "Well Lord! If this is the size plot in life you've staked out for me, let's you and me together show the world what we can grow on it."

Down the path of humble acceptance, Worrall achieved a happier and more useful life within the limitations of very restricted circumstances than most people ever will manage with excellent physical health.

An athlete was blinded in a freak boxing accident. The doctors told him, "You'll never see again." The social workers said, "Learn braille, stay home, accept the fact that you will be dependent on others for the rest of your life." But Morris Frank fought to regain his independence. The result was the development of "The Seeing Eye," the organization that trains Seeing-eye dogs for the blind.

Don't think it strange when you desire to serve God and then seem to encounter a severe time of testing. God's purpose at every juncture of testing is to make the person more valuable. Let me illustrate:

A \$5 bar of steel cut into ordinary horseshoes is worth \$10.

A \$5 bar of steel cut into needles is worth \$350.

That same bar of steel cut into delicate springs for watches becomes worth \$250,000.

Next time you get discouraged at what God is putting you through, think of that bar of steel!