

# Abundant Fruitfulness

## John 15:1-8

**Fruitful**-abundantly productive

### Deut 29:9

9 Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.

### Ps 1:1-3

1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

## I) The Cleansing Principle v.1-2a

### Take Away

**airo** (ah'-ee-ro); a primary root; **TO LIFT UP**; by implication, to take ; to expiate sin:

### **A. Purpose of Cleansing**

“New branches have a natural tendency to run low along the ground, but they can’t grow fruit this way. When branches grow along the ground the leaves get coated in dust, when it rains they get muddy and mildewed. The branch becomes sick and useless.

So we go through the vineyard with a bucket of water looking for these branches, when we find one we lift it up, wash it off, and clean it up. Then we tie it to the trellis and soon it is thriving.”

### **B. Process of Cleansing**

There are three stages of discipline that God uses on his children to get them to bear fruit. We find these stages in He. 12:1-11

#### **1. Rebuke - To Admonish, Verbal Warning**

God will prick your conscience for a sin you commit, he will use the PREACHING AND TEACHING of the word to rebuke you. Sometimes IN YOUR PRAYERS God will try and get your attention. Sometimes it is through the WORDS OF OTHERS.

#### **2. Chasten - Discipline, To Punish**

This is a more severe form of discipline than the first; it involves emotional anxiety, frustration, or distress. Pressures increase at work, at home, in your health or finances. Many Christians go along in their Christian life in this level of discipline they feel unfulfilled at Church, critical all the time, kind of on the outs with God. When they pick up their Bible it feels like a lead weight, and they cant seem to figure out why.

#### **3. Scourge – To Flog**

In this level of Discipline you are living in open sin and flagrant defiance for what you know is right. You have not responded to the Lords attempts to get your attention and because of this he must resort to inflicting pain to get the result. God takes long- term sin very seriously.

The consequences are more drastic than most Christians realize, Paul said that unconfessed and unrepented sin in the Corinthian Church had caused some of it’s members to get weak, sick and even die.

## II) The Cutting Principle v.2

### A. Precision Cutting

### B. Productive Cutting

Because of the grapes tendency to grow so vigorously, a lot of wood must be cut away each year. Grapevines can become so dense that the sun cannot reach into the area where fruit should form.

For the Christian, rampant growth represents all those preoccupations and priorities in our lives that, while not wrong they are keeping us from more significant ministry for God. There are four Particulars about pruning that we need to see.

1. Remove growth that is Dead or Dying.
2. Make sure Light can get to fruit bearing branches.
3. Increase the Size and Quality of the harvest.
4. Encourage New Fruit to develop.

God will use pruning to get those things that even though they may not be bad, they may just not be the best things in our lives. He will make us adjust our priorities to his in order that we may be more fruitful for him.

His purpose is for you to cut away immature commitments and lesser priorities to make room for even greater abundance in your Christian life.

Does Jesus have to make room for himself in your life? If this is the case than you better get ready for some pruning, Jesus will never settle for second place in anybody's life.

Because pruning is so similar to discipline it can be confused as such. Which is very dangerous because after we have confessed every sin we know, and the pain continues we start to get angry and blame God and begin not to trust him, because the things that are happening to us we think its because we have done something wrong when in reality we have done something right.

It is possible to distinguish from discipline and pruning. Ask yourself these questions, and realize that God would never discipline one of his children without letting them know why. And when your answer comes always remember that Gods knows best no matter what the circumstances.

1. Do I have a sin in my life that's causing you to discipline me?
2. Pray, Lord if you do not show me within a week from today that it is discipline, then I will take by faith that it is pruning.
3. If you conclude that you are being disciplined then sin is the problem, repent and turn around.
4. If you see that you are being pruned, ask God to show you clearly what he wants you to let go of, and trust him enough to release it completely to him.

### III) **The Communion Principle**

#### A. Reason For Communion

In the first two stages it is the Lord who initiates the action, but in the last stage the Lord invites the individual Christian to take the initiative to **ABIDE** in him in order to bear much fruit.

**ABIDING** – To remain, to be closely connected.

With the vine and the branch the fruit comes from the branch but the life comes from the vine. The more life giving sap that the branch receives the more fruit that it is able to produce, and the only thing determining the amount of sap the branch receives is the size of the connection between the vine and the branch.

In John 15 within 6 verses Jesus uses the word **Abiding** 10 times. **Jesus is trying to tell his disciples that their ongoing vital connection with him is what will determine the amount of his supernatural power that will be at work in their lives.**

#### B. Results of Communion

Boaz and Ruth **self - ½ bushel, savior – 2 bushels**, 2 weeks worth

Disciples Fishing

Feeding of five Thousand

In John 15 within 6 verses Jesus uses the word **Abiding** 10 times. Jesus is trying to tell his disciples that their ongoing vital connection with him is what will determine the amount of his supernatural power that will be at work in their lives

These are some Disciplines that will help you Abide in Christ.

1. Set apart time that will build a relationship. (Prayer, Bible)
2. Talk and Listen to a Person.
3. Keep a daily written record of what God is doing in your life. (This helps bring a reality to your relationship with an invisible God)

### **Life Group Questions**

1. What do you want from your life when it comes to the “productivity” aspect of it, what area would you like to be more productive at?
2. How much of your life do you really NEED God for? Be honest are we reaching out in faith to accomplish great things for him or are we complacent in our Christian life?
3. According to this study do you think God will allow you to sit back on cruise control or will He take action to motivate us to greater steps of faith? How do you feel about this?
4. Which principle have you struggled with the most? Why?
5. Why is it sometimes difficult to discern “Pruning” from “Discipline”?
6. What is the most difficult aspect of “Abiding”? What can we do about this?
7. From all that we have learned in this study what do you think God’s greatest desire for his children is? (Being Productive or Intimate Relationship)