

How God Gets the Most Out of You

Thrive – Part 2

John 15:1-8
January 10, 2010

“FRUIT” OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE INCLUDES:

1. **HAVING GODLY CHARACTER.** Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)
2. **GROWING IN HOLINESS.** Romans 6:22 (NKJV)
3. **WORSHIPING WITH A THANKFUL HEART.** Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)
4. **GIVING TO GOD’S MINISTRY.** Romans 15:26-28 (NIV)
5. **LEADING OTHERS TO JESUS.** John 4:35-36 (NKJV)

WHEN GOD “PRUNES” HIS PEOPLE IT’S....

1. **EXTREMELY PAINFUL.**

- **It’s not designed to be Punitive.** *“...and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it might bear more fruit.”* John 15:2 (NKJV)
- **It’s not designed to be Pleasant.** *“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trial, you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.”* 1 Peter 4:12 (NLT)

2. **AMAZINGLY PRACTICAL.**

- **Pruning can include People.**
- **Pruning can involve Problems.**
 - **The pain of problems is for Direction.** *“Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.”* Proverbs 20:30 (NKJV)
“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)
 - **The pain of problems is for Inspection.** *“Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands.”* Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)
 - **The pain of problems is for Correction.** *“As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn’t discipline you as He does all of His children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really His children at all.”* Hebrews 12:7-8 (NLT)
 - **The pain of problems is for Perfection.** *“While Jesus was here on earth, He offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue Him from death. And God heard His prayers because of His deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God’s Son, He learned obedience from the things he suffered.”* Hebrews 5:7-8 (NLT)
- **Pruning can introduce New Possibilities.** *“...He opens doors, and no one can shut them; He shuts doors, and no one can open them.”* Revelation 3:7

3. **ETERNALLY PRICELESS.** *“You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!”* John 4:35-36 (NLT)