



## Protect: Weed & Water

We are in a series called 'Do You Have a Green Thumb?' where we've discussed how to **Prepare the Soil of your heart and Plant the Right Seeds. Today we will look at how to Protect What You've Planted.**

**Prepare (soil)–Plant (seed)–Protect (weed & water)–Pluck (harvest)**

It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And **both will be rewarded for their own hard work.** 1 Corinthians 3:7-8

**Only God can save a soul. Yes, but we make disciples.  
Only God can grow the church. Yes, but we protect the seed.**

## To Protect the Harvest, **WEED**

**It's our job now to protect that good seed, in good soil.**

The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. Matthew 13:22

**Protect the seed by pulling up weeds of doubt and of wrong thoughts.**

## To Protect the Harvest, **PRUNE**

**Sometimes we have to protect the plant from itself.**

I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and **He prunes the branches** that do bear fruit **so they will produce even more.** John 15:2

**There's actually a curse when we don't bear fruit. Jesus prunes us to prevent the curse!**

**We must be careful when God is pruning. Don't try to hold onto something God is taking away!**

He noticed a fig tree beside the road. He went over to see if there were any figs, but there were only leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" And immediately the fig tree withered up. Matthew 21:19

**The fig tree had leaves. It looked good from a distance but there was no fruit.**

## To Protect the Harvest, **WATER**

**When you water what's been planted it grows!**

Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest. Psalm 126:5-6

**You Plant in Tears but Reap in Joy. Different process for harvesting than planting.**

**Water the seed in prayer and thanksgiving.**

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. Psalm 56:8

**Every tear you shed in prayer watered the seed of His promises!**

**It's easy to pluck an apple from a grown tree but we don't appreciate what we didn't water!**

The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry.

<sup>11</sup> It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Isaiah 55:10-11

**Water the seed of the word, with the water of the word.**

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. James 1:22

**Do you believe in the seed of God's word?  
Then watering is with action!**

**Before the planting is the preparation,  
During growing season is weeding and  
Before the harvest is the watering.**

**This is the transition between the concealed and the revealed.  
Without watering destiny is never unlocked. Harvest never comes.**

**The seed has all you need for multiplication but  
it's unlocked by the water.**

**Closing Thought: Stay Attached**

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. **Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit.** For apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

**We must remove all that keeps us from connecting to Jesus!**

Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. John 15:6

**The Lord's pruning is fearful.**

**My Next Steps:**

- Prune My Life of Sin Habits**
- Plant Seeds of Generosity Today**

**Tithes & Offerings**

The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25

**What seeds of generosity are you planting?  
Who are you watering?**

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