

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 15:1-2 NLT





God the Gardener

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and my Father is the
gardener.**

John 15:1 NLT

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doesn't produce fruit,**

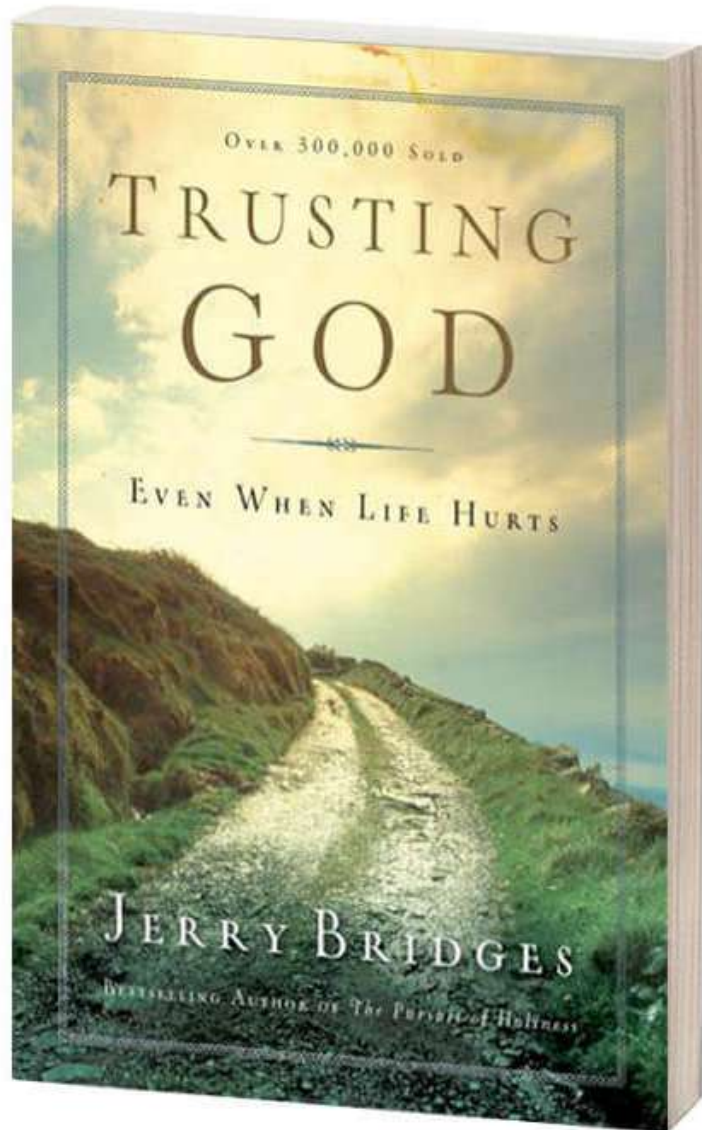
John 15:2a NLT

**and he prunes the
branches that do bear
fruit so they will
produce even more.**

John 15:2b NLT



**God the Gardener will skillfully,
lovingly, yet painfully prune the
fruitful branches of Christ and
cause them to produce more fruit.**



**“In the spiritual realm,
God must prune us....”**

Jerry Bridges
Trusting God, 193



Seasons of Pruning

But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful!

But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Hebrews 12:10-11 NLT

Dark pas-sions sub - due; Look ev - er to Je - sus, He'll car - ry you through.
Kind - heart - ed and true; Look ev - er to Je - sus, He'll car - ry you through.
Our strength will re - new; Look ev - er to Je - sus, He'll car - ry you through.

CHORUS

Ask the Sav - ior to help you, Com - fort, strength - en, and keep you;

This image shows the first page of a musical score. It features three systems of music. The first system contains the main body of the song with three lines of lyrics. The second system is labeled 'CHORUS' and contains one line of lyrics. The music is written on a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).


If the way of the cross I miss.
Where the soul is at home with God. The way
Where He waits at the o - pen door.

home, leads home, The way of the cross leads home

This image shows the second page of the musical score. It features three systems of music. The first system contains two lines of lyrics. The second system contains two lines of lyrics. The music is written on a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat).


"I Asked the Lord That I Might Grow"

John Newton (1779)




I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith, and love, and every grace;
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek, more earnestly, His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
And He, I trust, has answered prayer!
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.




I hoped that in some favored hour,
At once He'd answer my request;
And by His love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in every part.



Yea more, with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

Lord, why is this, I trembling cried,
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"Tis in this way, the Lord replied,
I answer prayer for grace and faith.



These inward trials I employ,
From self, and pride, to set thee free;
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st find thy all in Me."



**God's gardening is
painful but fruitful.**



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lovingly, yet painfully prune the
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