

Pastor
STEVE STEELE

The JESUS way

SEPT. 15TH, 2024

THE WAY OF THE VINE

“ ¹ I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² 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. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵ “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 15:1-5 (NLT)

We were designed to _____.

“ ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

~ GALATIANS 5:22-23 (NLT)

If your life bears _____, God will _____ . (_____)

“ ⁵ And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, ‘My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.’ ⁷ 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?”

~ HEBREWS 12:5-7 (NLT)

Discipline doesn't have to _____ long, it lasts as long as _____ .

“ ¹⁰ For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. ¹¹ 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)

If your life bears _____, God will _____ you. (_____)

“ ⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.”

~ PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8 (NLT)

The _____ of pruning comes now, the _____ comes later.

“ ⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

~ 1 PETER 1:6-7 (NLT)

If your life bears _____, Jesus invites you to _____ him. (_____ ...)

Do _____, spend _____ with _____, produce even _____.

“ ¹ As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. ² I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?”
~ PSALM 42:1- 2 (NLT)

“ ⁴ The one thing I ask of the Lord - the thing I seek most - is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple.”
~ PSALM 27:4 (NLT)

Jesus wants them (& us) to _____.

“ ⁶ 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. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. ⁹ "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.”
~ JOHN 15:6-10 (NLT)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REMAIN?

Stay connected in _____.



Scripture References ~ PSALM 16:11 (NLT) & ~ PSALM 23:4 (NLT)

Stay connected through _____.

“ ² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”
~ JAMES 1:2-4 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Find ways to take _____ wherever you go, give away _____ on the way.

“ ¹⁶ You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other”
~ JOHN 15:16-17 (NLT)

“ ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” ~ JOHN 15:35 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *available on the APP* |

- 1 - Who are some people who you see abundant spiritual fruit in their life? How did they get to that stage of production?
- 2 - How were you disciplined as a child? Do you see discipline differently now that you are an adult or even a parent?
- 3 - How have you experienced God's discipline in your life? Why do you think so many people hold onto their sin, even in the midst of pain? Read Hebrews 12:10-11, Have you ever seen a "harvest of right living" after discipline?
- 4 - In what ways have you experienced pruning? How has it shaped who you are today? Read James 1:2-3, How has it produced fruit in and through your life?
- 5 - Read John 15:1-3. How can you tell the difference between discipline and pruning? What is your response to each?
- 6 - What is the connection between remaining in Christ and the growth of love for others as described later in the chapter? How does remaining in Christ change our relationships?
- 7 - What areas of your life do you sometimes feel disconnected from Christ? What are some ways you can intentionally take Jesus with you everywhere you go?

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