

Ready or Not? Preparing for the Harvest - Part 1 July 26, 2026

July 24, 2026



John 15:1-2 NKJV

I am the true vine, and My father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

INTRODUCTION

1. Most enjoy the harvest but dislike the pruning.
2. No one likes loss, change waiting, or discomfort. Yet some of God's greatest work in our lives happens during the pruning - PRIOR TO THE HARVEST!
3. IF GOD IS REMOVING SOMETHING (PRUNING) SOMETHING FROM

YOUR LIFE, HE MAY BE PREPARING YOU FOR THE *NEXT SEASON*

4. We understand Seasons - **READY OR NOT? IT'S COMING**
 - a. Preparation for the Season **MUST** start prior to the beginning of the Next Season
 - b. Rest assured, Seasons Come and Go
 - c. Ecclesiastes 1:4
 - d. Ecclesiastes 3:1

GOD PRUNES PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE

1. Jesus didn't say He prunes DEAD branches
2. He prunes FRUITFUL branches
3. A gardner is not interested in the Dead, He pays attention and tends to the healthiest branches, fruit, stems, etc
4. Have you ever asked...
 - a. God, why am I going through this?
 - b. Why did this opportunity pass?
 - c. What just happened? I thought everything was going good.
 - d. Why are things so difficult right now?
5. God sees more fruit in your Next Season that you can imagine in your Current Season
6. Consider this...
 - a. Joseph lost his family, his freedom and years in prison. Yet every loss positioned him for the Next Season - A Place in the Palace!
 - b. David was anointed king, but sent back to shepherd sheep. He spent years running from Saul. God was preparing him for the throne!
 - c. Peter denied Christ, thought he had lost His Savior and went back to the fishing business. All along God was preparing him for the Next Season!
7. Never mistake God's pruning for abandonment!

PRUNING REMOVES THOSE THINGS THAT LIMIT FUTURE GROWTH

1. Healthy plants can become overcrowded
2. Good branches can PREVENT better fruit
3. Sometimes God removes:

- a. Distractions
 - b. Pride
 - c. Comfortable Routines
 - d. Wrong Relationships
 - e. Unhealthy Habits
 - f. Overloaded Schedules
 - g. NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL SINFUL, BUT THEY ARE KEEPING US FROM THE NEXT SEASON!
- 4. Hebrews 12:1
 - 5. Example: Roses must be pruned annually in order to produce the best quality Flower. What looks like loss is actually preparation for the Better!

PRUNING IS OFTEN PAINFUL

- 1. The branch doesn't volunteer to be removed
- 2. Pruning hurts, causes pain and sometimes even heartache but is necessary for the Next Season of growth
- 3. Romans 8:28

THE GOAL IS MORE FRUIT!

- 1. Jesus continues to use one word over and over in John 15 - FRUIT
- 2. He's looking for Fruit
 - a. Love
 - b. Joy
 - c. Peace
 - d. Patience
 - e. Kindness
 - f. Faithfulness
- 3. Pruning is about the HARVEST!
 - a. Everything we do and say must lead to a Harvest of New Souls!
 - b. Every Season must lead to HARVEST SEASON!
- 4. Pruning isn't about making life harder. Pruning is necessary to produce more Fruit - Healthier Fruit!

DON'T DISCONNECT DURING THE PRUNING!

1. Jesus said, "Abide in Me" in John 15:4,5,7,9,10
2. During times of Pruning we need God the most!
3. Don't Stop:
 - a. Praying
 - b. Worshipping
 - c. Praising
 - d. Reading the Word
 - e. Serving
 - f. Gathering with Believers
4. The VINE has everything needed for the Branch - don't allow anything to separate you from the Vine!

SIGNS GOD MAY BE PRUNING YOU

1. Doors unexpectedly close
2. Relationships Change
3. Priorities shift
4. God removes unhealthy dependencies
5. You lose interest in things that once consumed you
6. You experience Holy Dissatisfaction (think of mother eagle removing feathers from nest in order to teach the young to fly)
7. God slows you down
8. DON'T PANIC!!! God (the master gardner) knows what He is doing!

START ASKING DIFFERENT QUESTIONS

1. Lord, what are you PREPARING ME FOR?
2. What needs to be REMOVED?
3. What do you want to GROW in and through me?
4. How can I TRUST you more?
5. Then LISTEN!! STAND STILL!! WAIT UPON GOD!!
THIS SEASON IF PREPARING YOU FOR THE NEXT!
6. God never cuts randomly
7. He removes for a reason
8. This season is preparing you for the Next!
9. Don't Waste this Season
10. You may not enjoy it now, but it will make since to you when you are in the Next Season!

11. Challenge:

- a. What is God PRUNING ME for?
- b. Am I RESISTING THE GARDNER or TRUSTING HIM?
- c. Will I STAY CONNECTED until the Next Season?

GOD ISN'T PRUNING YOU BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN UP ON YOU OR TO PUNISH YOU!! GOD IS PRUNING YOU TO PREPARE YOU FOR THE NEXT SEASON! HE SEES MORE FRUIT IN YOUR NEXT SEASON THAN YOU CAN SEE IN THIS SEASON!