REDEMPTION CITY CHURCH

ABIDE ...IN THE VINE. What Can God Do with Our Pain? John 15:1-8



STICKY STATEMENT:

Sometimes God's purpose comes packaged as pain.

We don't hate pain. We hate pain without a purpose.

WHEN GOD PRUNES, I CAN ABIDE IN THE VINE AND ...

1. TRUST THAT GOD WILL USE MY PAIN TO _____ ME. (vv. 1–3)

"What more could I have done for my vineyard?" (Isa. 5:4)
Jesus is God's answer: ***"I am the TRUE Vine."***
If Jesus lives in you, Jesus will come out of you. (Matt. 7:16–23)
Being NEAR the Vine is not the same as Being IN the Vine.

PRUNE *(kathairō)* = to clean. Pruning isn't punishment — it's a process.
Pain strips away what competes for your heart.
It isn't abandonment — it's ownership.

2. TRUST THAT GOD WILL USE MY PAIN TO _____ ME. (vv. 2, 4–6)

"takes away" *(airō)* can also mean "lifts up." The Vinedresser lifts the branch off the ground so it can breathe and bear fruit.
God doesn't prune to punish you. He prunes to perfect you.

- HE PERFECTS US BY TESTING US — *"I have tested you in the fire of suffering, as silver is refined in a furnace." (Isa. 48:10, GNT)*

Pain doesn't create your faith. It reveals it.

Perfect *(teleios)* = mature, fully grown. Endurance = **"remaining under"** — learning to abide under the weight. (Jas. 1:2–4)

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- HE PERFECTS US BY CORRECTING US — *"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."* *(Prov. 20:30 TL)*

Pruning strips away our excuses. Don't ask, "God, why?" Ask, "God, what are You trying to perfect in me?"

3. TRUST THAT GOD WILL USE MY PAIN FOR HIS _____. (vv. 7–8)

God never wastes a moment of our pain. In His hands, pain becomes fruit, and fruit brings Him glory.

When His words remain in you, your prayers change: from *"God, get me out of this"* to *"God, use this."* (Rom. 8:28)

Your focus will determine your reality. Do you have a "good eye"?

"Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light.[23] But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness." Matt. 6:22–23

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." (Gen. 50:20)
The story you tell yourself about your pain matters.

"God permits what He hates to accomplish what He loves."(Joni Eareckson)

You're pruned, not abandoned. Stay connected.

DO THE WORD — JOHN 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Possess: *Am I near the Vine or in the Vine? What's one thing competing for my heart that God may be clearing out?*

Perfect: *Which fruit of the Spirit is God growing in me through this season? Am I resisting it or remaining under it?*

Purpose: *Who needs my story? Who is walking through something I've already been through?*

LIVE FOR MONDAYS: What story am I telling myself, "this is pointless" or "God is using this"? One sentence of truth I'll repeat this week:

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