

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Pruning

Pruning - posted by denem7 (), on: 2005/8/5 15:59

can someone give me a personal example of how God pruned them for the purpose of growth? thanks- dennis

Re: Pruning - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/8/5 16:53

Dennis,

how much time do you have? :-)

In Him, Chanin

Re: Pruning - posted by Logic, on: 2005/8/5 17:10

It usually comes as a trial that challenges your beliefs in what you think you know already.

For example, in my life about 6 years ago. I have a friend in my Church that was born in the Philippines, She set my wife and I up to get married. It was in April that I sent her a letter to introduce myself; it took her two months later to call me with no communication between that time. After that call, I asked her to marry me in our next conversation. I went to the Philippines that August 11 and we got married a week later. We had a whole two weeks of being married until I had to leave her so that I could petition for her Visa to enter the U.S. That petitioning to the I.N.S took 18 months. Think about being away from you newly wedded bride for 1 ½ years. During that time, I went through the biggest test, trial, or dessert, what ever you want to call it. My belief on everything from prayer to church its self was challenged. I had to rethink every thing. I ended up saying to God that I don't know anything. But in that process, everything that was left in my faith and knowledge of Him was confirmed. Everything that was confirmed is being built upon from there up.

Luke 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Re:, on: 2005/8/5 18:20

More of Him and Logic,

Thank you two for the encouragement you both are and for what you've both personally have written to me, to keep my Spirit up and not be grieved beyond measure.

You both have a burden to exhort and build up HIS Church, and no greater blessing could be found here on SI, then to find folks Like you.

God Bless His Church, in Jesus Precious Name.

Amen and keep on with both your Blessed gifts.

We need exhortors now, more than ever before.

This is where the "pruning" begins sometimes.

Love,
Annie

Re: pruning - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/8/5 18:45

Annie,

thank you for the compliment. I have never really thought of myself as an exhorter, but i have gone through the list before: teacher, ect... But now that i look at it, i guess I would be an exhorter. :-)

Dennis,

Here are few posts that show some of my "pruning"- in other words: the fruit of affliction.

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id4374&forum35#29622) Brokenness again
(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id2677&forum44#17003) God Used a Doctor to Speak to me
(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id5414&forum44#39315) An Affair not to Remember

I hope I put the URLs with the right posts :-o

In Him, Chanin

Re: In pruning does not the flower bare more fruit - posted by deltadom (), on: 2005/8/5 20:05

I sometimes need pruning and clensing from all baggage that is not going to heaven namely sin!! and all the other baggage. Like a flower I need pruning so I can become for like Jesus!!

Lu 8:8 - Show ContextAnd other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Re 22:2 - Show ContextIn the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations .

Le 25:3 - Show ContextSix years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;

Le 25:4 - Show ContextBut in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

I was trying to find the verse, which I cannot find but hopefully will find!! Pray for my clensing!!! and to be like Jesus!!

I want Jesus to bare much through me because he is the vine and branches dont bare much fruit!! I need to speak to a horticulturist about this subject to see if he knows anything !!

God bless

Dominic

Re:Pruning, on: 2005/8/6 0:25

I Love these verses and thank the author of this thread, for bringing up such an edifying topic

Joh 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer.

Joh 15:2 Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Joh 15:3 You are already pruned because of the Word which I have spoken to you.

Joh 15:4 Remain in me, and I in you. As the branch can't bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me.

Joh 15:5 I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do NOTHING.

~ Chanin, I read these links you gave above.

Quote:

-----Brokenness again
God Used a Doctor to Speak to me
An Affair not to Remember

They amazed me, and one in particular, the last one on this list, especially, I copied the link and put it in an email, for ladies (or even men) that have been through such things.

You said, you were desirous, to be 'used' ... well you are, and on the Internet, you don't know WHO all you're helping (so metimes I think that's the better way, anyhow).

Other folks besides me, could be reading and then copying what you say.

I think that is why I usually get the tremble-shakes when posting. I fear misrepresenting the God of Glory ... but I get off the computer and try to stop shaking and cry out to God to forgive whatever flesh is in me.

Though I know full well, that until our dying day, that prayer will go on.

What I like about those verses above, is that He ONLY prunes those who ARE producing fruit, to begin with. And without Him we "can do Nothing"... No-thing.

And that His Word, prunes us also, if we allow.

He only asks that we "abide in Him", which means we've finally reckoned the FACT, that without Him we can do "NOTHING".

Abiding is "Dependence or depending 140%" for everything (words, actions, decisions, Everything)

Paul said "For in me, in my flesh, dwells NO GOOD THING".

I had no problem at all reading every post on your links above and would highly recommend them to anyone.

There's a way to talk about "I", (ourselves) and yet it brings back ALL the GLORY to God.

Where Gal.2:20 is evident.

That's a beautiful thing you've done.

Thanks ~ major.

Love, Annie

Re: - posted by GaryE (), on: 2005/8/6 0:57

Some time ago I was at a home that had a very large and beautiful grapevine that would start fruit in the spring yet in the fall there was nothing on it. By reading gardening material I found out different things that needed to be done to the vine to get it to bear fruit. There was a spray to use but even with the spray you had to do other things so there would be fruit. In the month of March, you are to break the branches at the knuckles on the vine branches. You prune the vine so there is new growth on the vine. The new growth bears the grapes. It is also important to take away any dead wood from the vine to get rid of disease. You must remove and burn any dead wood or old droppings underneath the grapevine also. This keeps disease from coming back to the vine.

This doesn't just speak of a personal pruning in our lives so that we bear fruit. Just as Jesus cursed the fig tree, many of the professing church will see a pruning and go into the fire. The same fire as when the sheep and goats are divided. Some are sent to the fire prepared for the devil and his angels. It's also the same fire spoken about when Jesus said it is better to cut off a hand or pluck out an eye than for the whole body to be cast into hell.

The grapevine produced much fruit the next year once all that dead stuff was gone.

In Christ,
GaryE

Re: About Pruning, on: 2005/8/6 7:39

Pruning is a process that reshapes, but does not destroy the life.

It is always God's desire that we be first and foremost, saved. It is always God's desire for us to become more and more like Jesus. I'm sure you've noticed that the lifestyle of Jesus is much different than that of Donald Trump. In fact, upon closer scrutiny, you will find that Jesus' lifestyle is much different than what is held before the church as leadership today.

God is not interested in our material welfare. He is interested in our spiritual growth into ambassadors of Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

The first step in the process is the death of flesh. The old man must go to the cross in order for new life to be established. That old man, though dead by faith before God, hangs around the new life, hoping that it can be resurrected. Before God, it cannot. But it can surely cause us some grief.

Pain and suffering are the taskmasters of the child. Growing as spiritual children, God often has to allow pain and suffering into our lives to help us differentiate between the leading of the spirit and the leading of the flesh. Then He sets before us life and death and reminds us to choose life.

As someone here has already spoken, it's the new growth on the vine that bares the fruit. This is very important to understand. Breaking away the old is often painful. Oh but the life that springs forth from the new is something to behold indeed. Alleluia.

Some believers have such an unruly nature that they must be held in place by circumstances in order to keep them in line with God's will.

If you know anything at all about sheep, you know that the shepherd will break the leg of a sheep that continually wanders off, so that the sheep must stay close to the flock. This leg breaking is not welcomed by the sheep. It is painful indeed. But the wisdom of the shepherd sees that a broken leg is better than being eaten alive by wolves.

I know a man who was in the wrong place at the right time and was shot through the neck, very close to his brain. He lost eyesight in one eye. He could not walk for quite sometime. He had difficulty talking. His wife and children left him. He had nowhere to turn too, but new life. New life in Christ Jesus. I asked him, "Bill (not his real name), if you had not gotten shot, do you believe you would be saved today?" His answer? "Absolutely NOT!"

The flesh is destined for the grave. But our new man will live on and on. Too often our emphasis is on what is perishing, the old branches, while the vine dresser is hoping we will let those old branches go to the grave now, so the new fruit can come forth. There are no shortcuts. It is a natural process that must be adhered to if there is to be any fruit.

We must come to the end of ourselves, place no confidence in our flesh and rely on God in good times and bad to help us become like Jesus.

We can help the process by studying His life carefully, and prayerfully desiring to be like Him.

It is impossible to be like Him, unless we are willing to be obedient. The Bible says that Jesus was obedient in all things, even unto death on the cross. John 14:21 says that if we love Jesus, we keep His commandments. More, He also says that in that process, we will be loved by the Father. A father loves an obedient child. Jesus goes on to say that He Himself will manifest Himself to us. Glory to God. How good does it get?

Our biggest struggle is trying to keep the old man alive without offending God and quenching the Spirit. That is like trying to serve two masters. There is no success in it. In order to have the new life, death must come to the old. The old branches must be pruned, to let the new life come forth. It is God's design, it is the only one that works. Let us ever yield to Him as careful vinedressers, even though it puts our flesh to pain and death. May we each abound in new life that brings forth fruit, that will nourish others, and encourage them to be fruit bearers also.

Growing in grace,

Lahry

Re: - posted by denem7 (), on: 2005/8/7 0:35

wow. what great responses from you all. thanks. so, is it safe to say that pruning and trials are the same?

Re: - posted by jeremyhulsey (), on: 2005/8/7 0:52

David Wilkerson just recently preached a sermon that is somewhat related the topic in this thread. Download (<http://www.timessquarechurch.org/sermons/sermons2005.htm>) Not Every Trial Is A Test off of TSC's site. It's very encouraging, especially if your going through a trial.

Edit: You'll find the sermon listed in the July sermons, July 10th to be exact.

Re: I'd rather say....., on: 2005/8/7 8:45

....that not every trial is at the hand of the enemy.

The church picked up on "the devil made me do that" and away went taking responsibility for our own actions.

Much of what happens to us in life is the result of unwise decisions, some instantaneous, others made after much thought. The consequences of those decisions sometimes last a life time. But neither God nor satan is to blame.

The other thing about trials is that life is a risk from conception to death. It's part of the result of man's fall. Sometimes folks are in the wrong place at the right time and are victim of the bad decisions of others.

All of these things considered, it makes following the Holy Spirit all the more valuable in our lives. For instance.

When my wife's mom died, we were living in Maine. We drove to Boston to catch a plane for Los Angeles. Sitting in the gate in Boston with 5 small children we were both staring at this airplane we were to board. We just had this dismal depression set in for some reason. We were both very apprehensive about boarding.

They could not seat us all together in coach so they offered us "first class". That was very nice, but it could not make the dark cloud vanish. When we pulled out to the runway, we didn't go anywhere. This made us even more concerned. Finally after about 30 mins of sitting there, the captain came on and said there was a problem with the aircraft and we would have to return to the gate and be routed on other flights. Everyone but us were groaning. We were rejoicing. I think there is little doubt, if that plane had attempted to take off, we would not have made it to LA. While I was very grateful, I was also discouraged with myself that I did not respond to the leading of the Lord and ask to be re-routed before getting on that thing. Sometimes, God takes care of us even when we make bad choices.

Saints, our fallen nature is so deceptive, and so lustful. It continually wants what it wants, regardless of consequences. Thank God for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

If every trial was a test, then every death would be too. The end result of old age is death. Sometimes folks get sick at a young age and die. Is this a test? It could be for the one dying and or the family left behind. But not necessarily. Our focus means so much in times like these.

I knew a family in Arizona. They had 7 small children, the youngest just toddling. They were passionately in love with God.

The woman got cancer. Of course we all prayed continually for her. I remember the last time I visited her. She was literally skin and bones. When I walked in her room, she said, "Lahry, how's your family?" "Can I pray for you?"

With the loss of such a wonderful lady, you'd think there would be much sorrow among the family. But the presence of God was so abounding, the wake was more of a celebration than mourning.

Life has its ups and downs. Many difficulties are opportunities for us to follow ourselves, or follow Him. Storms are often birth places of miracles and healings. Even when things are lost, His presence in our lives is easily discerned and it builds our faith. Faith is what it's all about. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Glory to God.

resting in Him,

Lahry

Re: - posted by GaryE (), on: 2005/8/7 9:55

Luk 13:6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

Luk 13:7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why encumbereth it the ground?

Luk 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

Luk 13:9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

This fig tree is very much like the branch of John 15:6. We must abide in Jesus or there is no fruit. When one lives an

ungodly life, even after God's mercy of being cultivated, the person can expect to be cut down {Luke 13:9} or thrown into the fire as in {John 15:6}

In Christ,
GaryE