

DISCERNING DISTRACTIONS WHEN GOD IS PRUNING YOU

Distractions (Opening Discussion)

Our Flesh, Idols(putting things, places, people, situations before God), Confusing spiritual attacks with life events and/or pruning, relationships, Pride, Holding on to people that have moved on or situations that happened in the past, or current situations, self-sabotage with others or opportunities.....

What is Pruning related to in nature?

Pruning is a [horticultural](#), [arboricultural](#), and [silvicultural](#) practice involving the selective removal of certain parts of a plant, such as [branches](#), [buds](#), or [roots](#).

The practice entails the targeted removal of [diseased](#), damaged, dead, non-productive, structurally unsound, or otherwise unwanted [plant material](#) from [crop](#) and [landscape plants](#). In general, the smaller the branch that is cut, the easier it is for a [woody plant](#) to [compartmentalize](#) the wound and thus limit the potential for [pathogen](#) intrusion and [decay](#). It is, therefore, preferable to make any necessary formative structural pruning cuts to young plants, rather than removing large, poorly placed branches from mature plants.

God's pruning is not God's punishment, Today's pruning has more to do with tomorrow's promise than yesterday's penalty".

-Preston Morrison (Previous Campus Pastor at Gateway Church)

Examples of God's Pruning (Discussion)

Scripture references

(Ex. The story of Joseph Genesis Chapters 37-45) God's pruning develops your character and gives you the capacity to bless others who don't deserve it: **Genesis 45:7** Joseph saying to his brothers " And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance."

(Abraham **Genesis 12**) God removes something or someone that is in the way of our growth.

When God is preparing us for a greater purpose, he will mature our character and give us the capacity to handle any situation through him.

Ex. **Saul and David**, Job (**Job1**)

*Notes

Scripture Reference: John 15:1-2 The Vine and the Branches

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 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. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

(Discussion)

Jesus = The Vine (The Source of the life of the Branches)

We are = The Branches

God = The Gardener (Prunes the Branches)

What Does Pruning Produce?

MORE Fruit

Another example of a Vineyard (Israel)

The House of Israel/ Because they rejected the law of the Lord and despised his word (Isaiah 5:24)

***Notes**