He's Preparing Me

John 15:2

When we read John 15:1-3 Jesus establishes Himself as the "Vine", that is the source of our spiritual growth and development. Today I would like to focus on John 15:2b "Every branch that does produce fruit He prunes, that it may produce more fruit. This is part of the growth process that the vast majority of the Body of Christ neither like nor understands.

The Pruning Process

"Every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes." This single verse announces with a resounding voice the purpose of the pruning process in our lives.

The Purpose of Pruning

Removal of the deadwood: Sin, distractions, and material and worldly attachments.

Pruning is Nurturing: Pruning is a form of nurturing. It is essential to the growth of the plant. By removing dead or diseased branches pruning helps prevent the spread of disease. Pruning leads to greater fruitfulness.

Comfort in Trials: The pruning process is also a process of purification. We are God's gold that He carries through the fire to purify us. It is this purification that leads us into a deeper dependence upon God. Pruning compels us to move closer to God so we can embrace His guidance and remain open to His support.

Hope and Assurance: There is comfort in knowing that God's pruning process is only temporary and will lead to a better relationship with God. It is in the pruning process that our purpose and God's good are made all the more clear. It is in this process that we discover that all things do work for the good of those who love the Lord and are called according to His (God's) purpose.

There is a real growth component and intent behind pruning. It is not only about cutting away that which is dead, unnecessary, and unwanted. It is also about the promotion of growth and enhancing our productivity. When the unproductive elements are trimmed from our lives we are in a better position to grow and flourish and bear greater fruit.

The Trials of Pruning

Pruning in the initial is not perceived by many as a pleasant or comforting process. However, as we go through the pruning process and come to the end of the trial. We will discover the depth of our relationship with God has deepened because we were compelled to seek a closer walk with God in these moments of severe challenge.

Embrace the Pruning Process

To benefit from the pruning process. We must let go of the deadwood in our lives. We will have to relinquish habits, attitudes, or attachments that hinder our spiritual growth. When we can do this we open ourselves up to the transformative work of God.

The Time of Preparation: A pruned plant yields more fruit. Embracing the pruning process will enable us to yield more fruit for God. This happens because, during the pruning process, we are allowing God to shape us. We are allowing God to grow to bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness…Galatians 5:22-23.

Just as a skilled gardener prunes a fruitful vine for greater abundance, God prunes us and shapes us through pruning to be more productive.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool