

Zion Chapel Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.

2022 Vacation Bible School

Adult Bible Study

Zoom Meeting ID: 83977289893


Access Code: 421720

Living Out Loud for Jesus!

(Bear Much Fruit!)

Bearing Much Fruit

Week Summary:

1. Introduction – Fruit: The Carrier of the Seed for Reproduction
2. The True Vine - Christ
3. The Priceless Value of the Seed – The Word of God
4. The Prepared Soil – Understanding with the Heart  Faith Comes
5. The Miracle of Salvation – Faith + Nothing
6. Abiding in Christ – Our New Identity
7. Pruning – What God does!
8. Types of Fruit

Bearing Much Fruit

God's Pruning Process

Bearing Much Fruit

Group Discussion:

Why do Christians suffer?

God's Pruning Process

John 15:1-4

- **15** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- **2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- **3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

God's Pruning Process

Hebrews 12:5-11

- ⁵ And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:
- ⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- ⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
- ⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

God's Pruning Process

Hebrews 12:5-11 (cont.)

- ⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
- ¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
- ¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

God's Pruning Process

Romans 5:3-5

- ³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
- ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
- ⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

God's Pruning Process

1 Peter 1:6-7

- ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

God's Pruning Process

Biblical Perspective on Suffering:

- James 1:2-4 ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

God's Pruning Process

Suffering ...

It's His Way!

God's Pruning Process

Suffering Defined

- Simply stated, suffering is anything which hurts or irritates.
- To undergo, be subjected to, or endure pain, distress, injury, loss, or anything unpleasant.

God's Pruning Process

Biblical Terms for Suffering:

- Tribulations: grievous trouble; severe trial or suffering.
- Trials: a test of the performance, qualities, or suitability of someone or something; a person, thing, or situation that tests a person's endurance or forbearance.
- Tests: a procedure intended to establish the quality, performance, or reliability of something, especially before it is taken into widespread use.

God's Pruning Process

Biblical Perspective on Suffering:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Romans 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

God's Pruning Process

Biblical Perspective on Suffering:

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

1 Peter 4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him.

God's Pruning Process

Biblical Perspective on Suffering:

Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

1 Peter 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

2 Corinthians 1:5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

God's Pruning Process

Biblical Perspective on Suffering:

- 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 ⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God's Pruning Process

Suffering ...

It's His Way!

God's Pruning Process

Food for Thought on Suffering:

- We suffer because we live in a fallen world where sin reigns in the hearts of men.
- We suffer because of our own foolishness. We reap what we sow (Gal. 6:7-9).
- We sometimes suffer because it is God's discipline. "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son He receives." (Heb. 12:6).
- We may suffer persecution because of our faith--especially when we take a stand on biblical issues, i.e., suffering for righteousness sake (2 Tim. 3:12).

God's Pruning Process

Food for Thought on Suffering:

- Sufferers want to be ministered to by people who have suffered. They are suspicious of people who appear to live lives of ease.
- Sometimes Christians have an idea that if we do what God wants us to do, then He owes it to us to take suffering away. God orchestrates events for His glory and ultimately for our good.
- One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is free will – the ability to choose between right and wrong. The problem is that many people choose to do evil rather than good.
- Natural disasters will occur due to living in a cursed world. Romans 8:20-21 ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

God's Pruning Process

Biblical Examples of Suffering for God's Purposes

- Abraham
- Joseph
- Job
- David
- Daniel
- Jeremiah
- Jesus
- Paul