JANUARY SERMON SERIES:

LESSON TITLE:

GOD HAS A GREEN THUMB (THE PRUNING PROCESS)



January Sermon Series:
GOD HAS A GREEN THUMB
(The Pruning Process)

John 15:1-2, “I Am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes that it may bear more fruit.

Scripture Lesson:
Hebrews 12:9-11

Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful.

Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."



The Peaceful Fruit Of Righteousness



Spiritual growth often begins where comfort ends.

The peaceful fruit of righteousness is a life aligned with God's character that naturally bears the fruit of peace.



Righteousness is not self-made; it's Spirit-shaped.

Seven Ways God’s Discipline Produces the Peaceful Fruit of Righteousness:

1. By Teaching Us The Terrible Devastation Caused By Sin.



“Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”

2. By Stripping Us of Self-Righteousness, Self-Sufficiency and Pride.



“Pride is the only disease that makes everyone else sick besides the person that has it.”

Proverbs 16:18, Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall.

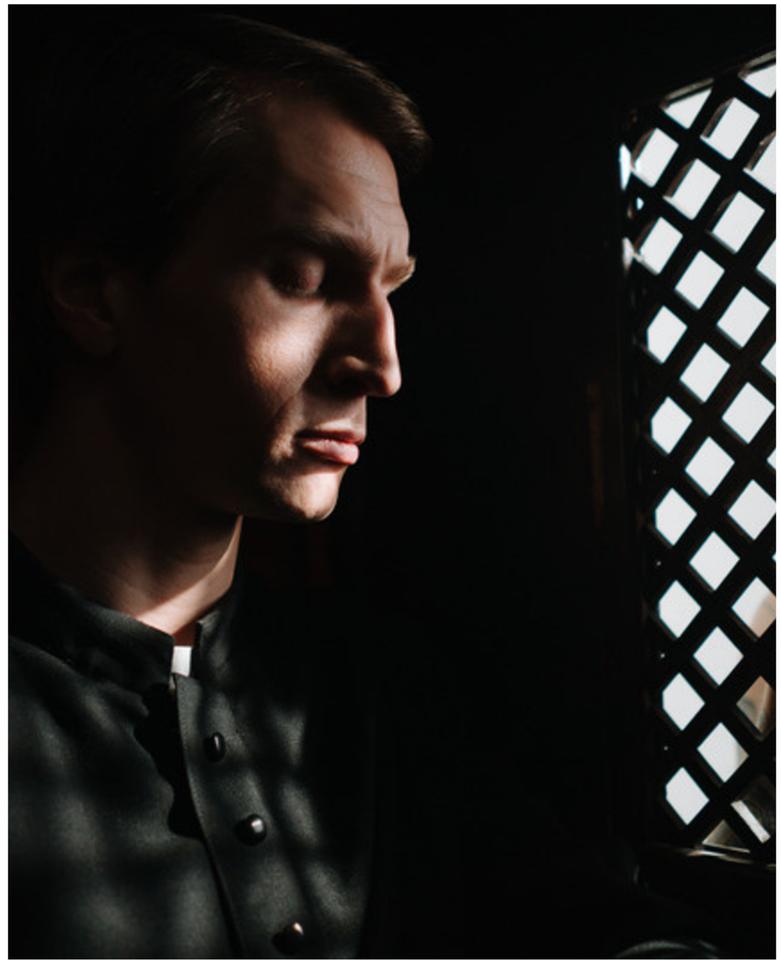
3. By Helping Us Shift our Focus from This Life to Eternity.



“Lord, stamped eternity on my eyeballs.”

II Corinthians 4:16-18, Though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. We look at the unseen, eternal things, not at the things we see on this earth.

4. By Uncovering Hidden Sins and Blind Spots.

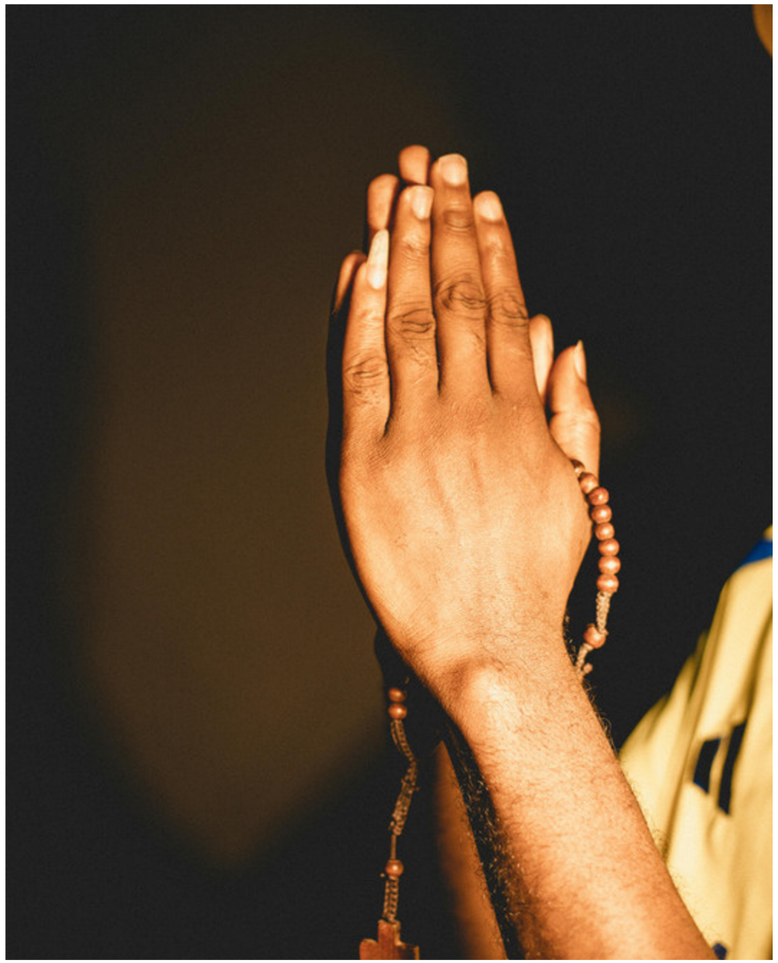


Lamentations 3:4, Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord.

Psalm 119:67, Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your Word.

“When we sin in secret, God is our only audience.”

5. By Strengthening Our Faith and Driving Us Closer to Him.



"Adversity is a bridge to a deeper relationship with God"

6. By Developing Compassion and Humility.



Colossians 3:12, Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

“Humility is the gateway into the grace and the favor of God.”

7. By Developing the Fruit of the Spirit In Us.



For discipline to be effective, we must submit to the training process.

“Every time you put off time with God, you’re training your heart to live without Him.”