

3 KEYS:

1. If I constantly bear NO FRUIT God will intervene and discipline me.

3 Stages of Discipline:

- 1) Rebuke 2) Chasten 3) Scourge

2. If my life bears SOME FRUIT, God intervenes and \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Why is pruning important?

Without it, growing Christians will only be able to live up to a \_\_\_\_\_ of their potential.

→ In pruning God asks us to let go of things that will keep us from accomplishing His \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

Still wondering if God is disciplining you?

1. Acknowledge that God is trying to get your attention. Decide that you don't want this season of turmoil to go to waste.
2. Trust that since a loving parent would tell a child why He or she is receiving correction, your heavenly father will do no less. Believe that He wants you to know Weather you are experiencing discipline or pruning.
3. Ask the Lord to help you answer this question: Do I have major sin that's causing You to discipline me?
4. Pray, Lord, I want to know. If you do not show me That it is discipline, then I will take it by faith that it is pruning.
5. If you conclude that you are being disciplined, sin is The problem. Repent and turn from it.
6. If you conclude that you're being pruned, ask God to Show you clearly what He wants you to let go of, And trust Him enough to release it completely.

• Left to itself grape vine will ALWAYS favor new growth over more grapes. Looks impressive. Underwhelming harvest.

| ISSUE                               | DISCIPLINING                       | PRUNING                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| How do you know it's happening?     | Pain                               | Pain                                 |
| Why is it happening?                | You're doing something wrong       | You're doing something right         |
| What is your level of fruitfulness? | No fruit (represented by Basket 1) | Fruit (represented by Basket 2)      |
| What is the Vinedresser's desire?   | Fruit (represented by Basket 2)    | More Fruit (represented by Basket 3) |
| What needs to go?                   | Sin                                | Self                                 |
| How should you feel?                | Guilty, sad                        | Relief, trust                        |
| What is the right response?         | Repentance (stop your sinning)     | Release (give God your permission)   |
| When does it stop?                  | When we stop sinning               | When God is finished                 |

Remember: Your heavenly father loves you so much that He won't stop tending your life. Accepting His pruning doesn't mean that your life, or enjoyment of life will shirk.