

Abiding in Him...

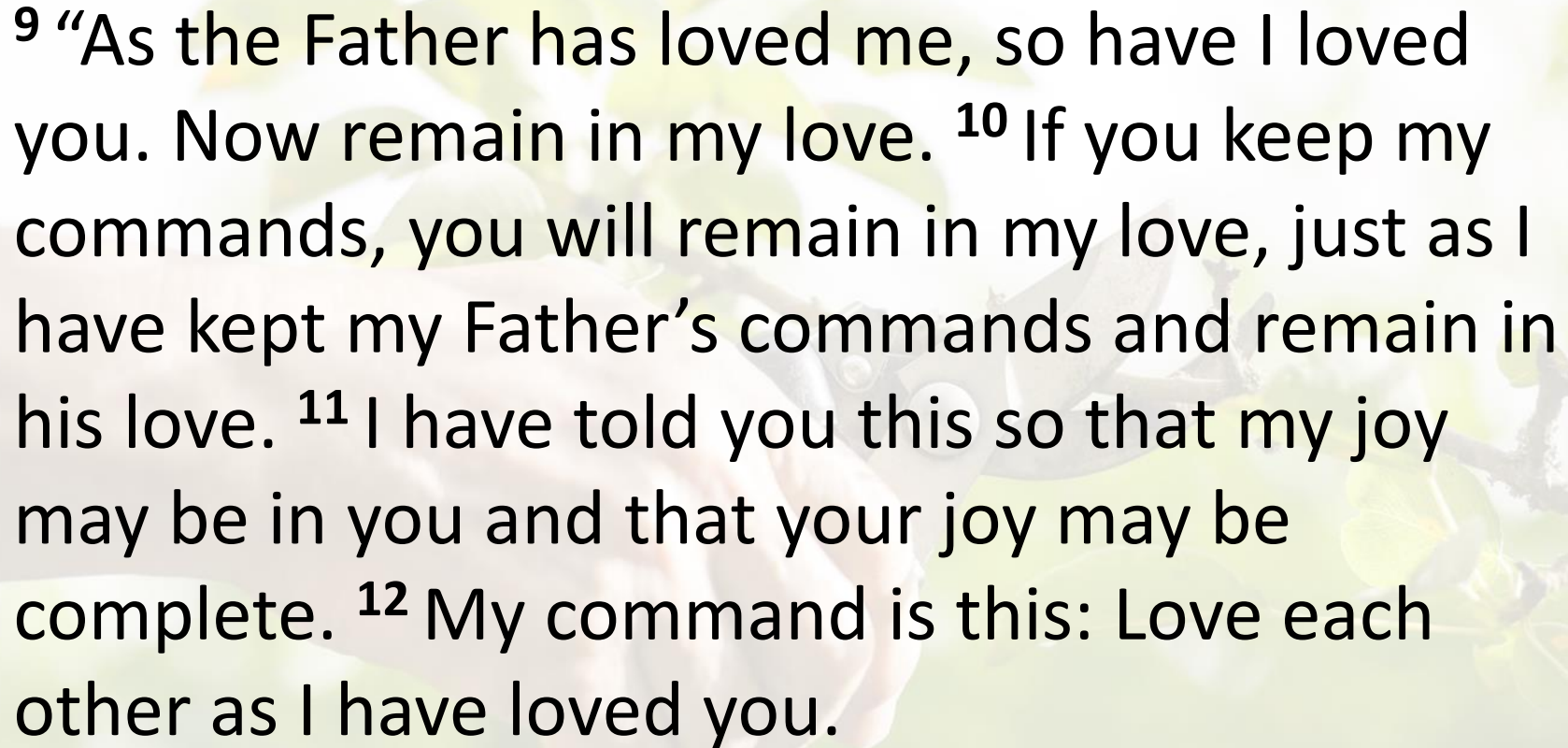
...When God Prunes



John 15:1-12 (NIV)

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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.



⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

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A background image showing a person's hands using pruning shears to trim a plant branch. The scene is brightly lit, with green leaves and a blurred background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

1. Pruning

- remove dead or diseased wood

2. Thinning out

- This is usually employed to revitalize a plant by removing over-mature, weak, **problematic**, and excessive growths.

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10 Character Tests of Joseph

1. The pride test
2. The pit test
3. The presence test
4. The purity test
5. The prison test
6. The prophetic test
7. The power test
8. The prosperity test
9. The pardon test
10. The purpose test

Joseph

- Dads blue eyed boy (favour)
- Dream (calling)
- Betrayal (family)
- Slavery (testing)
- Potiphar's house (favour/calling)
- Potiphar's wife (testing)
- Jailed (testing/favour)

David

- David anointed as next king (calling)
- Serving in the house of Saul (favour)
- Then Goliath (people see him public, recognition)
- Then running for his life (testing)

Paul

- Meets Jesus (called)
- Preaches and teaches in the churches (favour)
- Hardships (testing)

John 15:13-17 (NIV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I **no longer** call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:13-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

The True Vine

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 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.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a branch with green leaves and a yellow flower. The image is overlaid with the word "WHY?" in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural setting.

WHY?