

Pruning Is a Good Thing

by Julie Luetke

A few days ago I pruned my raspberry plants. The berry patch gave us plenty of nice juicy berries this year. So if they were doing so well, why did I prune them? Well, to make them do even better next year!



There are three main reasons to prune raspberries:

1. So the plants will bear many more large berries
2. Unpruned plants are more prone to disease
3. Pruned plants are able to get more sunlight

Pruning is radical. When I pruned the berries I used a sharp tool that exposed the tender insides of the stalks. The plants look pretty pathetic right now. It is hard to imagine it was for their good.

Jesus tells us in John 15:2 ... *every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will bear even more fruit.*

Pruning hurts. Suppose you are permanently injured in an accident. The tender inside of your heart is raw with pain as you grieve the loss. Your life will never be the same. You keep asking, "Why, God? Why did you let this happen to me, your child?"

I love my raspberries. The more they bear, the more I will have to share with friends. In order to make them bear more fruit I had to cut them back. God wants us to bear more fruit. As you recover from the accident you share the comforts of God's word with your visitors and the hospital staff. That is bearing fruit. You pray to God more often and more wholeheartedly. That is bearing fruit.

I want the plants to be strong so they can withstand disease. Pruning makes raspberries stronger. False doctrine can destroy our faith like a disease destroys a berry patch. Maybe you were starting to think God doesn't really mean all of the things he tells us in the Bible. That is a disease. Out of love for you God pruned.

As you recover from the accident but are left permanently disabled you are changed. Maybe, for the first time, you find you reach for your Bible daily and have a constant conversation with Jesus in your mind. That is letting the Son Light in.

John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.*



Season: Lent

Video: 20. Spread the Joy!

Devotion: 180. This May Hurt A Little

Prayer: 44. Dear Maker and Preserver of Life, in the daily Scripture postings this...

Super Girl: 76. My mother will sometimes tell the story of when she was...

Scripture References: Psalm 92:14; Daniel 11:35; Matthew 3:10; Matthew 7:19; Matthew 15:13; Matthew 25:29; Mark 4:20; John 15:6

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