



SPACE CADETS

Reclaiming the Margins

Week Two Summary

P is for Pruning

Galatians 5:22-23 - ***But the Holy Spirit produced this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.***

This is a picture of a life in-step and in-surrender to the Holy Spirit.

GOOD = beautiful + blessed + beneficial.

This series is about making room for God and finding rhythm in God, with the belief that We'll produce more of His goodness as we do so.

We often think the answer to our challenges and anxieties is MORE and BETTER. More money, more time, better friends, better job, better home etc.

The problem with this is however much we have or don't have, our character / habits / attitudes go with us!

We often only accept pruning as a last resort.

John 15:1-2 - ***I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.***

Pruning:

- Encourages new growth
- Produces more and better fruit / flowers
- Trains branches in the way and direction to grow
- Protects against pests and disease
- Produces beauty

There are significant benefits to our lives being pruned by God!

Hebrews 12:5-5 - ***And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as His children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when He corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as His child." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children.***

#1: Give God PERMISSION to prune.

Psalm 139:23-24 - ***Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.***

Think of God's pruning tools on a spectrum like this:

— Encouragement — — — Correction — — — Discipline — — — Punishment —

The level of permission we give God to prune and transform our lives, often correlates to what tool He needs to use

Does God have an "Access All Areas" pass, or are there rooms of your life off-limits to God?

#2: PARTICIPATE in what God's up to

God initiates and we participate

Life in Christ is not one heavy burden replaced by another - Jesus said His yoke was easy and burden light... God works patiently and purposefully in us

Romans 8 teaches us to walk in step with the Spirit

The Spirit is wanting and/or waiting to work in your life - our role is to discern where He is and participate in what He's initiating

#3: PERSEVERE in God's pruning process

Hebrews 12 - don't give up when He corrects you... endure this divine discipline...

Perseverance is ongoing permission and participation - it's faithfulness to the life of faith

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PRACTICAL EXERCISE

For the next few weeks pray the words of Psalm 139:23-24 morning and evening

Reflect and meditate - take a minute or two to be still and fully aware of God's power and presence. Is there a Scripture / picture / prompting / word / theme / story that God draws you towards? Write it down.

Review - looking at the notes you've taken from your reflection and meditation time, can you see a theme or any commonalities running through those notes? This might give you an indication of where God is wanting or waiting to be at work in or through you.

Act - Ask God for strength, courage and grace in that area. Ask Him to reveal what the first step He'd have you take is. Share this with a friend who can pray with and encourage you.