

Priorities and Pruning – Daily Exercises

Thoughts and questions for reflection, writing, and prayer to enhance personal growth.

Day 1

Write about a time that you felt convicted about something you were doing that wasn't sinful, but you still felt like God didn't want you to do it. Why do you think it was something God wanted you to stop doing? What did God want you to do instead? Did you resist or surrender it? What was your attitude towards God about it?

Day 2

GENESIS 12:1 (NIV)

The LORD had said to Abram, “**Leave** your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.”

What did God ask Abram to give up? Were they sinful things or not?
Was this an example of God’s pruning in Abram’s life?
What would have been the result if Abram had refused to leave the comfort of his home?
What would have been your thoughts and fears if this had happened to you?
Was the result in the end something worth obeying God?
Did God give Abram something better than what he gave up?

Day 3

Memorize

JOHN 15:1-2 (NIV)

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He 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.”

Day 4

One of the biggest challenges in the Christian life is giving up those things that we desire in order to obey God. But one thing we begin to discover, the longer we live for God, is that our desires are often a pretty poor judge of what is best for us.

ROMANS 12:2 (Amplified)

Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], **so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].**

Why do you think God needs to direct us for what is best for our lives?
Do you think God would ever ask you to get rid of something without giving you something better in place of it?

Day 5

When our priorities in life are correct, allowing God to prune us becomes less painful. What matters most is what lasts, and what lasts the longest is eternity. So based on that, what should your priorities be in your life? Take some time to write down what your ultimate priorities are and how they will impact eternity. Then write down what your temporary goals are and why they are significant. Do any priorities need to change?