

# Soul Garden: Pruning for Life

By Kevin Kusunoki, January 18, 2026

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

John 15:1-2 NIV

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.

John 15:5 NIV

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love.

John 15:9 NIV

They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be despicable, but rather healed.

Hebrews 12:10-13 NIV

Discipline is NOT:

1. All ☒ troubles
2. Always quick ☒ , immediate ☒ , punitive ☒

Four results of discipline:

1. Fruitfulness ☒
2. Holiness ☒
3. Righteousness ☒
4. Peace ☒

How we respond:

1. Reflect and ask: "Is this in any way connected to sin ☒ in me?"
2. Do long range ☒ reflection
3. Remain in His love ☒

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. As you reflect the past year of troubles and difficulties, are there any recurring themes that you notice?
2. What are the “similar places” and “similar circumstances” that God keeps bringing you to?