

The Good Gardner's Process for Your Spiritual Growth — Lent #5
Church by the Sea ~ Madeira Beach, FL
March 10, 2024 Dr. Jeffry Iskra

BIG IDEA: Spiritual maturity is more about RELATIONSHIP than activity

1. The Good Gardner Oversees the GROWTH PROCESS

Spiritual Season #1 — DELIGHT & Discovery

John 15:1 I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.

2. The Good Gardner MAKES MOVES in our Life for the Purpose of Producing More Fruit

What is the fruit that God desires to produce in us?

- Free from sin
- Holy character
- Love & concern for others: believers & unbelievers

Spiritual Season #2 — DISCIPLINE

Vs. 2a Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away...

Takes away = elevates, lifts up, takes up OR takes away

Spiritual Season #3 — **DELETION** & Disposal

Vs. 2b ...and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

Pruned = actively being cleansed & purified

Vs. 3 You are already pruned and purified by the message I have given you.

3. Continuous Companionship With Jesus Determines the Richness & Fullness of my Life

Spiritual Season #4 — Do Less & **DWELL** More

Vs. 4-5 Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Remain = abide, dwell, endure, to set up your home