

Growing Process

I am the vine; ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.—John 15:5

When I toil in the garden I realize that pulling out the weeds is just part of a bigger process. It is not the weeding that brings forth flowers and fruit but only a step to the desired outcome. As I encounter a biting mosquito, sore hands, and aching knees, I look at a flower in bloom or new growth on a tree and I am reminded that this labor is part of the price of the harvest.

Difficult work often makes us desire shortcuts. It is much easier to go to the store and buy the fruits and vegetables but the quality is lacking. So we count the cost and continue the labor to enjoy the result. The same is true of the Christian life. We abide in Christ and He will produce the fruit but he expects us to invest our labor to see quality results. He expects us to study His word. John 15:7 tells us, *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”* Verse 10 reminds us of our responsibility to obey His word, *“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love.”*

Why is the growing process so important? Why should we invest time in learning God’s word and obeying? It is because of the end results of the process. . .

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
—John 15:8*