



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 11:16-24
- John 15:1-8
- Ephesians 2-4
- Matthew 3:10; 13:24-43

Title:

THE CONSUMMĀTE GARDNER

- Root Rules
- Pruning Parameters
- Garden Management

SEED:

“For if the **firstfruit is holy**, the **lump is also holy**; and if the **root is holy**, **so are the branches.**”

Romans 11:16 NKJV

“You will say then, “**Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.**” Well said. **Because of unbelief they were broken off**, and you stand by faith. **Do not be haughty, but fear.** For if God did not spare the natural branches, **He may not spare you either.** Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. **Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in**, for God is able to graft them in again.” Romans 11:19-23 NKJV

FRUIT:

““I am **the true vine**, and **My Father is the vinedresser**. **Every branch** in Me that **does not bear fruit He takes away**; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes**, that it may **bear more fruit**. You are **already clean** because of the word which I have spoken to you. **Abide in Me, and I in you**. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine**, neither can you, **unless you abide in Me**. “**I am the vine, you are the branches**. He who **abides in Me**, and I in him, **bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing**. If anyone **does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered**; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are **burned**. **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you**, you will **ask** what you desire, **and it shall be done** for you. By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.” John 15:1-8 NKJV

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

One word, two pronunciations, different but related meanings, both are applicable here. One is a verb used to describe an action or occurrence. One is an adjective used to modify a noun by describing its attributes, hinting at some of its values and characteristics. Of course, context will help determine which is appropriate. Our word today is consummate: a long mark over the ‘ā’ in the verb instructs us to pronounce

‘ate,’ as in *consummāte*. The short mark over the ‘ă’ in the adjective instructs us to pronounce ‘met,’ as in *consummăte*. You can (verb) *consummāte* a marriage, or you can have the (adjective) *consummăte* marriage.

Consummāte (verb): make a marriage complete by having sexual intercourse; complete a transaction; make perfect, conclude, finish, accomplish, achieve, execute, put into effect; put the finishing touch to, to perfect, crown, set the seal on.

Consummăte (adjective): perfect, exemplary, supreme, ultimate, faultless, superior, expert, skillful, master, complete, total, utter, absolute, pure.

When you were born-again, you were bound to God as one is to a spouse in marriage; the two become one and there can be no separation. It is a finished work, a completed a transaction; God sets a crown upon your head and you become a member of His Royal Family. His seal is set upon your life from that moment and into eternity. You’ve *consummāted* your *consummăte* relationship with God—your perfect, faultless, pure union.

In the scriptures we often see the use of agricultural allusions, metaphors, and allegories to bring understanding. These help paint pictures on the canvas of your mind. God grafts you into His holy root perfectly, or He cuts you out; God prunes trees so they produce more abundant and exemplary fruit; Christ is the vine and you are the pure branch. It is difficult to grow good fruit in rocky soil or dust. Weeds and thistles will invariably choke the life out of any plant. Good soil is critical; pure seed is vital; cultivation, pruning and water are required to produce the ultimate yield. Barren trees will be cut down and burned; and counterfeit tares grow in the midst of authentic wheat. Do not grow weary in doing good; the fields are white and a double portion harvest is coming, if you persevere. Cultivate the soil of your heart; soften its stoney hard-packed earth; become a soil nutritionist; and do not sow among thorns. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God is the Master Horticulturalist, the quintessential artist in the practice of garden cultivation and garden management. You too must become a wise and faithful manager of God’s garden. It is actually required that one be a good steward. You can *consummāte* your branch with God’s root, and you can have the *consummăte* grafted-in life with God. Both are highly recommended!

ROOT RULES

1. The Root and The Branches

A. Deep Roots

(1) Everything to which Paul was leading in the last few chapters pools at this very moment.

(a) Holy infects Holy

1. “For if the **firstfruit is holy**, the **lump is also holy**; and if the **root is holy**, so are the **branches.**” Romans 11:16 NKJV

2. *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea **to win one proselyte**, and when he is won, you make him **twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**”* Matthew 23:15 NKJV
3. **[Paul speaking]** *“Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James **[Jews in Jerusalem]**, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision **[Jews who would oppose fellowshiping with Gentiles]**. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.”* Galatians 2:11-13 NKJV
4. *“... blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**”* Romans 11:25
5. *“If **the part of the dough** offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.”* Romans 11:16 NIV
6. **[Better]** *“Another parable He spoke to them: **“The kingdom of heaven is like leaven,** which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal **till it was all leavened.**”*” Matthew 13:33 NKJV
7. **[Worse]** The opposite of holy. If the firstfruit is unholy [*Sexual Immorality, Pride*], the lump is also unholy; and if the root is unholy, so are the branches.
8. **[Worse]** *“Then He charged them, saying, **“Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”**”* Mark 8:15 NKJV
9. **[Worse]** *“Your glorying is not good. **Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** Therefore **purge out the old leaven,** that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, **not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**”* 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 NKJV
10. Preceding: *“**It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you,** and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife! **And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned,** that he who has done **this deed might be taken away** from among you.”* 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 NKJV
11. *“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, **to dishonor their bodies** among themselves,”* Romans 1:24 NKJV
12. *“**Pride goes before destruction,** And a haughty spirit before a fall.”* Proverbs 16:18 NKJV
13. *“I tell you, no; but **unless you repent** you will all likewise perish.”* Luke 13:3 NKJV

14. “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. **You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin** because of him.” Leviticus 19:17 NKJV)
15. “But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV
16. “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**” John 15:2 NKJV
17. “Even so, every **good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**” Matthew 7:17-20 NKJV
18. “He also spoke this parable: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and **he came seeking fruit on it and found none.** Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come **seeking fruit** on this fig tree and **find none. Cut it down;** why does it use up the ground?’ But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I **dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.**’ ”” Luke 13:6-9 NKJV
19. “Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And **seeing a fig tree** by the road, He came to it and **found nothing on it but leaves,** and said to it, “**Let no fruit grow on you ever again.**” **Immediately the fig tree withered away.**” Matthew 21:18-19 NKJV
20. **[Seeds must be planted]** “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,** it remains alone; but **if it dies, it produces much grain.** He who **loves his life will lose it,** and he who **hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.** If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:24-26 NKJV
21. **[Fruitful Seeds]** “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “**The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,** which a man took and **sowed in his field,** which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is **greater than the herbs** and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”” Matthew 13:31-32 NKJV
22. **[Good Seed and Bad Seed]** “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man **who sowed good seed in his field;** but while men slept, **his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat** and went his way. But **when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.**” Matthew 13:24-26 NKJV [More on The Wheat and the Tares later...]

23. "And even now **the ax is laid to the root of the trees**. Therefore **every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire**." Matthew 3:10 NKJV
24. "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is **cut down and thrown into the fire**." Matthew 7:19 NKJV
25. **[The Fertile Heart: soft, moist and ready to flourish]** "For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "**Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, And take away the foreskins of your hearts...**" Jeremiah 4:3-4 NKJV
26. **[A Soft Heart of Flesh with a New Spirit]** "I will give you a **new heart and put a new spirit** within you; I will **take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh**. I will **put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk** in My **statutes**, and you will keep **My judgments and do them**." Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV
27. **[Is this not Exactly what Paul was teaching in Romans 10:8 about Deuteronomy 30:14? See [Cognitive Dissonance](#)]** "But what does it say? "**The word** is near you, in your mouth and **in your heart**" (that is, **the word of faith which we preach**):" Romans 10:8 NKJV
"But **the word** is very near you, in your mouth and **in your heart, that you may do it**." Deuteronomy 30:14 NKJV
28. **[Soil/Heart Options]** "Therefore hear **the parable of the sower**: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. **This is he who received seed by the wayside**. But he who received the seed on stony places, **this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself**, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, **immediately he stumbles**. Now **he who received seed among the thorns** is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it**, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Matthew 13:18-23 NKJV [More on The Parable of the Sower later]
29. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And **let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart**. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:7-10 NKJV
30. "So they said, "**You have saved our lives**; let us find favor in the sight of my Lord, and **we will be Pharaoh's servants**." Genesis 47:25 NKJV

31. "Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. **Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.**" Genesis 47:23 NKJV

a) If the root is holy, so are the branches. If the root is unholy, so are the branches!

(2) To what root are you grafted?

(a) He is the Vine, you are the Branches! (More allusions, metaphors, and allegories...)

1. "I am **the true vine**, and **My Father is the vinedresser**. **Every branch** in Me that **does not bear fruit He takes away**; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes**, that it may **bear more fruit**. You are **already clean** because of the word which I have spoken to you. **Abide in Me, and I in you**. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine**, neither can you, **unless you abide in Me**. "I am the vine, you are the **branches**. He who **abides in Me**, and I in him, **bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing**. If anyone **does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered**; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are **burned**. **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you**, you will **ask** what you desire, **and it shall be done** for you. By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples." John 15:1-8 NKJV

(b) Member (Attached Branch) Benefits!

1. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed**. And you shall **know the truth**, and the truth shall **make you free.**" John 8:31-32 NKJV

(3) For your prophetic pleasure: look to where Y'shua draws His teachings from Isaiah!

(a) For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant.

1. "Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: **My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill**. He dug it up and **cleared out its stones**, And planted it with **the choicest vine**. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He **expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes**. "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, **between Me and My vineyard**. What more could have been done to **My vineyard** That I have not done in it? **Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?** And now, please **let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard**: I will **take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug**, But there shall come up **briers and thorns**. I will also command the clouds That they rain **no rain on it.**" For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, And the

men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help." Isaiah 5:1-7 NKJV

B. Seed and Soil Lessons! What soil are you sowing into with what seeds?

(1) Soil

(a) The Parable of the Sower

1. *"On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: **"Behold, a sower went out to sow.** And as he sowed, some seed fell by the **wayside**; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on **stony places**, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among **thorns**, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on **good ground** and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"* Matthew 13:1-9 NKJV

(b) The Purpose of Parables and Isaiah's warning (connection to Romans 11:8 where Paul referred to Isaiah 29:10, *eyes won't see; ears won't hear*)

1. "And the disciples came and said to Him, **"Why do You speak to them in parables?"** He answered and said to them, **"Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,** but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them **the prophecy of Isaiah [6:9-10] is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'** But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:10-17 NKJV

(c) Explanation for the Soil/Heart Types

1. *"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. **This is he who received seed by the wayside.** But he who received the seed on stony places, **this is he who hears the word and immediately***

*receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, **immediately he stumbles.** Now **he who received seed among the thorns** is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it,** who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”” Matthew 13:18-23 NKJV*

2. **Note, these words from the Sermon on the Mount should be even more clear now!**

*““Therefore whoever **hears these sayings of Mine, and does them,** I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who **hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them,** will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes [experts in the law].” Matthew 7:24-29 NKJV*

(2) Seeds

(a) The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

1. *“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man **who sowed good seed in his field;** but while men slept, **his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat** and went his way. But **when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.** So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, **did you not sow good seed in your field?** How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘**Do you want us then to go and gather them up?**’ But he said, ‘No, **lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”**’ ”” Matthew 13:24-30 NKJV*

(b) Prophetic Explanation

1. *“Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “**Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.**” He answered and said to them: “**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the***

reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matthew 13:36-43 NKJV

C. **Root Support**

(1) The Wild Olive Tree

(a) You do not support the root; the root supports you!

1. "And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a **wild olive tree**, were **grafted in** among them, and **with them** became a **partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches.** But if you do boast, remember that **you do not support the root, but the root supports you.**" Romans 11:17-18 NKJV
2. "**For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles...**" Romans 11:13 NKJV
3. "Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, **behold, we turn to the Gentiles.** For so the Lord has commanded us: '**I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.** [Isaiah 49:6]' "" Acts 13:46-47 NKJV
4. "We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "**In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.** [Isaiah 49:8]" Behold, **now is the accepted time;** behold, now is the day of salvation." II Corinthians 6:1-2 NKJV
5. "Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.**' {7} " Thus says the Lord, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the Lord who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You." {8} Thus says the Lord: "**In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages;**" Isaiah 49:6-8 NKJV
6. **[I speak to you Gentiles; an apostle to the Gentiles]** ""I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You **and give You as a covenant to**

the people, As a light to the Gentiles, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.” Isaiah 42:6-7 NKJV

D. Do not boast against the ORIGINAL branches...

(1) **BONUS MATERIAL:** The Gentile Journey as a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree!

(a) Gentiles are fellow heirs of the same body as Israel.

1. “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that **by revelation He made known to me the mystery** (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, **as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ** through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to **the gift of the grace of God** given to me by **the effective working of His power.**” Ephesians 3:1-7 NKJV

(b) That power is Resurrection Power.

1. “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, **making mention of you in my prayers:** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the **riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:15-23 NKJV

(c) With access to that power!

1. “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through **whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,** and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

2. “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:29-30 NKJV

(d) With that power working in you!

1. "Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us**, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV
- (e) How did this all happen?
1. "And you **He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **in which you once walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the **sons of disobedience**, among whom also we **all once conducted ourselves** in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others. **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)**, and **raised us up together**, and made us sit together in the **heavenly places** in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might **show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**" Ephesians 2:1-7 NKJV
- (f) The exact mechanism.
1. "For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that **not of yourselves**; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God **prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**" Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV
 2. "But also **for this very reason**, giving all **diligence, add to your faith...**" II Peter 1:5 NKJV
- (g) **REMEMBER!**
1. "Therefore remember that **you, once Gentiles** in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— that **at that time you were without Christ**, being **aliens from the commonwealth of Israel** and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having **no hope and without God** in the world. But **now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ.**" Ephesians 2:11-13 NKJV
- (h) One new man.
1. "For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as **to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, and that He might **reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For **through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**" Ephesians 2:14-18 NKJV

- (i) Therefore...
1. "Now, therefore, you are **no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**, having been built on **the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, **being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord**, in whom you also are being **built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**"
Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV
- (j) Remember we are all one people now, so that should assuage any temptation to boast!
1. "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to **keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV
- (k) The purpose.
1. "And He Himself gave some to be **apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers**, for the **equipping** of the saints for the **work of ministry**, for the **edifying of the body** of Christ, **till we all come to the unity of the faith** and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; that we should **no longer be children**, tossed to and fro and **carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men**, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, **speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**" Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV
- (l) As such...
1. "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should **no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: **that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you**

put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:17-24 NKJV

PRUNING PARAMETERS

2. Unbelief or Faith

A. The End will reveal which branch you are!

(1) Warning: Do not get haughty!

(a) If God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you...

1. "You will say then, "**Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.**" Well said. **Because of unbelief they were broken off**, and you stand by faith. **Do not be haughty, but fear.** For if God did not spare the natural branches, **He may not spare you either.**" Romans 11:19-21 NKJV
2. "We who are **Jews by nature**, and **not sinners of the Gentiles**, knowing that a **man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith** in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law**; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified." Galatians 2:15-16 NKJV
3. "For they **being ignorant of God's righteousness**, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have **not submitted to the righteousness of God.** For **Christ is the goal of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes." Romans 10:3-4
4. "**For by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV
5. "**Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.** Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud." Proverbs 16:18-19 NKJV
6. "...Do you want us then to go and gather them up?" But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest..." Matthew 13:28-30
7. "But he who endures to the end shall be saved [**are the saved**]." Matthew 24:13 NKJV
8. "receiving **the end of your faith**—the salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:9 NKJV
9. [**Y'shua**] "...the harvest is the end of the age; the tares are gathered and burned in the fire at the end. The Son of Man will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire..." Matthew 13:39-42

10. [Isaiah] *“For so the Lord said to me, “I will take My rest, And **I will look from My dwelling place** Like clear heat in sunshine, Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.” **For before the harvest, when the bud is perfect** And the sour grape is ripening in the flower, **He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks And take away and cut down the branches. They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey And for the beasts of the earth;** The birds of prey will summer on them, And all the beasts of the earth will winter on them.”* Isaiah 18:4-6 NKJV

(2) Proper Pruning

(a) When God prunes you, you will be more fruitful!

1. “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**” John 15:2 NKJV

(b) You will know who is of God by their fruit!

1. “Even so, every **good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**” Matthew 7:17-20 NKJV

(3) A Critical Distinction....

(a) It is important to distinguish.

1. “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? **I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.** So **then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.** Now **he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.** For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** Now if anyone **builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.** If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. **If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**” I Corinthians 3:5-15 NKJV

GARDEN MANAGEMENT

3. To Graft or not to Graft?

A. That is the question!

(1) Is your faith real?

(a) God is both good and severe!

1. "Therefore consider the **goodness and severity** of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue** in His goodness. **Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in**, for God is able to graft them in again." Romans 11:22-23 NKJV
2. "For **it is impossible** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.**" Hebrews 6:4-8 NKJV

B. Wild vs. Cultivated

(1) Grafted and Re-grafted

- (a) If God can graft in a foreign species, how much easier will it be for Him to graft in the native species?
1. "For if you were **cut out of the olive tree** which is wild by nature, **and were grafted** contrary to nature into **a cultivated olive tree**, how much more will these, who are natural branches, **be grafted into their own olive tree?**" Romans 11:24 NKJV
 2. "For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so as to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, and that **He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**" Ephesians 2:14-18 NKJV
 3. "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**" Romans 11:25 NKJV