

PRAYER LAYS THE AXE TO THE ROOT

Opening Scripture: Matthew 3:10 (NASB)

Introduction:

Tree - representation of the human character

Horticultural Lesson:

Plants need to be pruned

Scripture: John 15:2

“Every branch in ME, that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes so that it may bear more fruit”

Point 1: Prayer - that place of Discipline

A daily surrender to God and His word

Prayer produces that **Hunger (def. to crave)**

Prayer produces an **Appetite (def. instinctive desire)**

Scripture: 1 Cor. 9:27

“I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified”

How do we do that? In the daily disciplines of prayer.

We experience a “war of 2 natures” when it comes to obeying what is right to do.

Scripture: Romans 7:14-25 (**NASB version**)

2. - Prayer - Becomes that place of Deliverance

The place where I am my “true self”.

Scripture: Ps. 32:7

“You are my hiding place, You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance”

The place of repentance.

Repentance: (def. Metanoia - a change of mind)

Deliverance: (def. the act of being rescued)

Jesus is our Deliverer!

Scripture: 1 John 4:4

“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because GREATER is He who is in YOU than he who is in the world”

3. - Prayer - that place of Determination

The place where you make up in your mind:

- I am determined to walk like Him.
- I am determined to look like Him.
- I am determined to talk like Him.

I make a decision that the enemy steals from me “NO MORE”.

Scripture: John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full!”

There is a continual process of pruning ...that leads to transformation.

Transformation (def. Metamorphose: to change the character of; alter the nature of)

Scripture: 2 Cor. 3:18

“But we all with an unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being TRANSFORMED into the same IMAGE from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit”

No matter how hard we try in the natural to change ourselves, it takes God’s spiritual hands to bring about the long-lasting changes that are needed in our life.

We can experience His transformation in at least 3 areas:

- 1- In our Mind (Rms. 12:2)
- 2- In our Heart
- 3- In our Surrendered Will