

## 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