

The Growing Season Part I; June 19, 2011

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

– Matthew 13:3-8 (NIV)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ **I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.** ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

– John 15:1-8 (NIV)

The Source of Our Growth!

“For in him we live and move and exist.”

– Acts 17:28 (NLT)

Our growth begins when we receive Him!

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.**

– John 1:11-13 (NLT)

We grow as we get to know Him!

When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, **he wasn’t aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the LORD.** So when Aaron and the people of Israel saw the radiance of Moses’ face, they were afraid to come near him.

– Exodus 34:29-30 (NLT)

We grow as we allow Him to shape us!

So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over. Then the LORD gave me this message: “O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? **As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.**

– Jeremiah 18:3-6 (NLT)