



7 September 2020

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Guardians,

Spring is in the air, a new season, a season of new life. How exciting! I believe even more so in our walk with Jesus, in the church, in our beloved country and worldwide amidst the chaos.

As I was pruning some shrubs, John 15 came to mind:

"I am the True Vine and My Father the Vinedresser. Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit (that stops bearing) He cuts away; and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit." (verses 1-2 AMPC)

I am pretty sure that most of us experiencing some pruning in our lives during this time and season. I am not a gardener and I prune to the best of my knowledge, but often with uncertainty in my heart whether I do it the right way. How wonderful to have the assurance that the One who is pruning us, is our loving Father, the perfect One, with perfect knowledge, knowing exactly what and how - the best way for the best results. He does it from a heart full of love and compassion, pouring out grace at the same time.

He prunes with one purpose - that we may *bear more, richer and more excellent fruit*. The one who is truly blessed when a vine or tree bears much, and excellent fruit is the farmer. Likewise, our Father is blessed, honoured and glorified when our lives bear much and excellent fruit (verse 8).

This spurs me on to yielding more to my Father, embracing the pruning process and to fight shrinking away or just enduring it.

The only way we can do it, is to abide in the Vine, Jesus, our blessed Saviour and Lord (verses 4-5). Staying close to Him, seeking His presence, seeking His face continually, walking with Him.

May all of us experience the grace and love of our Father in the pruning that we may bear much and excellent fruit to the glory of our God in this new season.

With love,

Marietjie

CCA Kids Team