

LOVE AND ALL ITS PIECES

Would you let your garden become a tangled mess, overgrown with weeds? Would you accept that your flowers did not bloom so well? Would you ask your friends to come and see your neglected garden? In John 15, Jesus is telling us that God is our gardener, that we are grafted onto Jesus. We are in Him and He is in us. Have you asked yourself, just how does God become the gardener of our soul? The answer is, because we allow the nature of Jesus to be connected into us. As we abide in Him, we become more like Him. God observes this relationship, and he looks for two things, fruit and dead wood. He sees how our souls are nourished as we drink from all His virtues. From this nourishment, we produce God's virtues as His fruit. The things that do not thrive are the parts of our lives that were corrupted, and they die because they are no longer being fed. God prunes these off so that we remain something He can show off to the whole world.

If you abide in me my words are in you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied

If our lives are full of the virtues of God and we combine all these virtues, what do you think we would have? The answer is – love as it should be. Just like fruit, God's virtues develop and ripen over time and usually not all at once. In 1 John 4, it speaks about love, but love is the culmination of all God's good fruit ripening on every branch in our lives. From this, we can choose the fruit that is needed to demonstrate God's love to others. The fruit of forgiveness, or patience, or encouragement, or joy are there in our souls, ripe to share. Then we know we are connected into God's love through the love of Jesus. We have assurance that we truly are the work of the Holy Spirit. Those who hold things against others will always have fear; the fear of being hurt. Love is like a shield that takes hurt and deflects it to God who has enabled us to then wrap it up with His Spirit of grace and mercy.