



Hardships and Refinement

1 Peter 1:1-9 & John 15:2

(Lessons from the Vine #2)

5-3-20

1. God _____ his children, perhaps with change, or with troubles, or hardships, for a _____ that far outweighs them all.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

2 Corinthians 4:16, 17, NIV

- A. Sometimes hardship is removal of some _____ for the refinement of the _____.
- B. When it comes to grapes and also my faith life I cannot have both a lot of _____ and a lot of _____.
- C. In times of trouble, consider whether it is a _____. What is a test of faith? It is a trial or hardship, a removing, or a pruning that invites me to _____ of myself to God's greater purposes.

"...you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:3-4, NIV

2. In my hardships God invites me to _____ my life for areas to surrender to God for greater fruit.

- A. My _____:
- B. My sources of _____:

- C. My _____:

- D. The question is whether we will _____ and bear the kind of fruit that's important _____.

3. In my trials, God invites me to _____ them into his future.

- A. Take the perspective of a vintner; live with _____ and the difficult moment won't look all that daunting!

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

James 1:12, NIV

