1. Abide in Him

_**John 15:1-6 (ESV)**_ 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

_**Matthew 7:20 (ESV)**_ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

_**Galatians 5:22-24 (ESV)**_ 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, _gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law._ 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

_God as Pruner uses a two-step process to prune us…_

- **Step 1: Precepts.** God’s precepts are contained in the Bible.
  
  _**Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)**_ For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- **Step 2: Trials.**
  
  _**Psalm 119:67 (ESV)**_ Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.

2. Obey Him

_**John 15:7-11 (ESV)**_ 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

_**Psalm 16:8-9 (ESV)**_ 8 I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

3. Love like Him

_**John 15:12-17 (ESV)**_ 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.
Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)  18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Application:

1. Pray for others.

   Colossians 1:9 (ESV) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

2. Refuse to stop loving.

   Proverbs 17:17 (ESV) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.