

Date: December 8, 2019

Sermon Title: Abiding and Blooming

Speaker: Richard Smith

Scripture text(s): John 15:1-16; Psalm 66:10-12

- 1) Does it matter what you do with your life from this day forward? Read John 15:8. What does this verse have to say about this question?
- 2) Read John 15:16. What difference does this make in your life to spur you on when you just want to quit and go home?
- 3) Discuss times when God has pruned you. What was it like? What were the results?
- 4) What does it mean to you to know that it's a good thing for God to prune you?
- 5) What does the pruning do in our lives? How can the pain in our lives become our platform?
- 6) Read Psalm 66:10-12. In what ways is God testing you? What hope do you glean from these verses?
- 7) Read John 15:4-5. What is the key to more fruit in your life?
- 8) A quote from Brother Lawrence about conversing with the Lord: "a simple attentiveness and a habitual loving turning of my eyes on Him; a conversation between the soul and God which doesn't end." Does this characterize your life? If not, what steps can you begin taking today in order for this to be a characteristic of your life?
- 9) Richard gave 3 ways to abide: (1) cherish His Word, (2) obey His will, (3) rely on prayer. Read John 15:7 & 15. Why should we read His Word?
- 10) Bruce Wilkerson said that he had become an expert at serving God, but was a novice at being His friend. What does your friendship with God look like? Is it growing? Is it stagnant? Is it non-existent? How can you develop your friendship with God?
- 11) Read John 15:10. Why is obedience so important?
- 12) Read John 15:7. Why is prayer so important to our relationship with God? Why should you keep on praying even in those times when God said "no" and it's broken your heart?