

FROM

DETACHED

TO

ATTACHED

John 15:1-16

Sometimes in life, we go through uncomfortable situations so that we will remember who God is. As a show of His love, God will strip things away from us that are inhibiting our growth. As the Scripture says, God is the vine; we are the branches. We get all our sustenance from staying attached to the vine; however, sometimes, we will remove ourselves from the vine and begin to die off. Before God connects the branch back, He first has to remove the dead fruit so it doesn't weigh us down as a new, restored branch in Him.

Although these situations may feel uncomfortable or painful, they are really a show of God's love. Love says, "I can't let my son or my daughter decay." We as God's children should welcome His pruning. Without Him we can do nothing! This is why even those who seem to have it all often aren't happy: they don't have God, and without Him, we will never be content.

As children of God, we have to make a daily decision to say, "God, keep me connected to the vine. Keep me bearing good fruit!"

Often, God takes things away from us, not just because we've detached from the vine, but also, because we've attached ourselves to another vine. These other vines do not give life, and only cause decay in us. When God connects you back, don't hang on to the old dead fruit. Relinquish it all to Him. The things we think are good cannot compare with what God knows is good!

When we aren't connected to the vine, the enemy can manipulate us anyway he wants. He promises us things to get us to break off from God, but those things are just a mirage—they aren't really there.

When we remain connected to the vine, we remain connected to God's love, mercy, joy, peace—essentially, God downloads *Himself* to us! And in this relationship, let's not just take from the vine. Let's also *upload* our praise and prioritization to God as thanks for who He is and what He's done.

Stay attached to the vine!