

Jesus' "I Am" Sayings – Lesson 31

This morning we will conclude our study of Jesus' "...I AM..." statements by answering the final two questions about God's pruning process.

These two questions are:

[4] How does God prune us?

[5] What is the final result of pruning?

[4] How does God prune us?

We have learned that the *...Father is the Vinedresser...* Who prunes us to bear more of the fruit of Jesus' Life in us.

We also have learned that we cannot grow this Divine fruit on our own ability [remember **John 5:30**]

Therefore, Jesus promised to ask the Father to give us the Holy Spirit [**John 14:16**] to prune us so our fruit will *...testify of [Jesus]...* **John 15:26**

The Father's pruning began when He sent the Spirit to save us

Ez. 36:25-27 *I will sprinkle clean water on you [pruning], and you will be clean; I will cleanse you [pruning] from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 Moreover, I will give you a new [pruned] heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a [pruned] heart of flesh...*

Then the Spirit began the process of pruning us to be *...conformed to the image* [**Gen.1:26**] of God's Son...

Only in this way will Jesus' character and work be seen in us.

Gal 5:22-23 *...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control...*

Acts 4:13 *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus...*

[5] What is the final result of pruning?

Holy Spirit prunes us so that we will be *...filled with the fruit of Righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God...* **Phil. 1:11**

Such fruit shows that we have *...become partakers of [God's] Divine Nature* [**2 Peter 1:4**]

What about God's glory is being revealed in us?

The glory of the perichoresis of the Trinity.

In us is being revealed the simultaneous presence and work of the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

This is how God has fulfilled His creative purpose in **Gen. 1:26** ...*let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness...*

Jesus in us ...*is the Image of the invisible God [Col. 1:15]* ... by the indwelling of the Spirit
And because in Him ...*all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form [Col 2:9]*, the Father also dwells in us by the Spirit

Therefore, the constant ministry of the Spirit prunes us so that the reality of the Trinity is being manifested in us.

In this way, the Persons of God is shown to mutually indwell each Other.

When the three Persons of the Trinity are shown to be the Source of our fruit, God is glorified.

This is what Jesus was revealing by saying "...I AM..."