**October 5 Sermon - Pastor Keith Moore
Series: Abiding In Christ Part 2**

**Sermon: Where True Transformation Begins**

**Focus Passage: John 15:2**

## **Icebreaker:** As a kid, what was the strangest or funniest punishment you ever got from your parents?

## **Transition:** Jesus wants every believer to live a life of fruitfulness and abundance. But fruitfulness doesn’t come naturally. In John 15:2, He tells us that branches that bear no fruit are lifted up and cleaned off by the Father. Pastor Keith reminded us that this is God’s discipline, not punishment out of anger, but correction out of love. Let’s talk about what God’s discipline looks like, why it matters, and how we can respond with repentance and trust.

## **Discussion Questions:**

### **1. Read John 15:2. What does Jesus mean when He says that fruitless branches are “removed” or “lifted up”?**

*Leader Note: In vineyard care, fruitless branches often trail in the dirt and mildew, so the gardener lifts them, washes them, and ties them up so they can bear fruit. This is God’s loving discipline for believers caught in sin. He lifts us up, cleans us off, and restores us. Cross-reference Psalm 40:2, where God “drew me up from the pit.” Encourage the group to view this discipline as a source of hope, not despair.*

### **2. According to Pastor Keith, what is “fruit” in the Christian life?**

*Fruit is the character of Christ (Galatians 5:22–23), good works that bless others, and a lifestyle that honors God (Colossians 1:10). Fruit is evidence of transformation and maturity. Discuss ways members have seen God grow this fruit in their lives. Some may share about character changes; others may share about opportunities to serve or witness.*

### **3. Read Hebrews 12:5–6. How does God’s discipline show His love for us?**

*Leader Note: The writer compares God’s discipline to a father correcting his child, not out of cruelty, but out of care. Pastor Keith reminded us that if God never disciplined us, it would be proof we’re not His children (Hebrews 12:8). Encourage the group to reflect on times when God’s correction, though painful, ultimately led to deeper growth and closeness with Him.*

### **4. Pastor Keith described three levels of God’s discipline: reproof, discipline, and punishment. How have you experienced any of these in your walk with God?**

*Leader Note: Reproof may come as conviction through a sermon, Scripture, or a word from another believer. Discipline can be felt in the natural consequences of sin, like frustration, loss of joy, or spiritual dryness. Punishment is a more severe correction when sin persists. Share examples, but remind participants this is not for shame, but it’s for encouragement. Cross-reference Revelation 3:19: “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline.”*

### **5. Why is unconfessed sin so dangerous for a believer’s life and witness?**

*Leader Note: Sin weighs us down, disrupts fellowship with God, and harms our testimony before others. Pastor Keith used the example of the Corinthian church, where unrepentant sin brought weakness, sickness, and even death (1 Corinthians 11:30). Invite discussion on how secret or ongoing sin affects joy, worship, and spiritual effectiveness.*

### **6. Read Hebrews 12:11. What does this verse teach us about the purpose and outcome of God’s discipline?**

*Leader Note: Though painful, discipline produces “a peaceful harvest of righteousness” for those trained by it. In other words, the goal is fruitfulness and maturity. Encourage the group to share ways God’s discipline has resulted in long-term blessings, even if it didn’t feel good at the time. This connects to Romans 8:28–29, God working all things for our conformity to Christ.*

### **7. Pastor Keith closed by urging us to joyfully repent. Where in your life might God be “lifting you up and cleaning you off” right now?**

*Leader Note: This is the application step. Repentance is not about guilt but about restoration. God disciplines to bring us back to Himself, not push us away. Allow time for honest reflection, and close by praying for one another, that we would receive God’s discipline with trust and yield to His work so that we might bear much fruit.*