

Experiencing God, Pt. 2

Review

1. To Experience, God means to know God on an experiential level. It is not head knowledge but a knowing that is a result of our daily encounter or involvement with him.

Illustration: Healing, finances, etc.

2. The More we experience God the more we produce fruit that looks like God.
3. There are 4 kinds of fruit-bearing branches or Christians according to John 15:1-16
 - a. No Fruit branches - John 15:2
 - b. Fruit-bearing branches- John 15:2
 - c. More Fruit branch - John 15:2
 - d. Much Fruit branch - John 15:5
 - e. Remaining Fruit branch - John 15:16

4. **How do No Fruit Branches Produce Fruit?** John 15:2

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

(John 15:2, NKJV)

“He takes away” from what? The Dirt which is symbolic of Sin

When there is more and more conviction about sin in our lives it is because God wants to take us away from the dirt so we can bear fruit.

Once you start bearing fruit God takes you to the next stage and that is what we want to **focus on today.**

How do Fruit Bearing Branches Produce More Fruit? John 15:2

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

(John 15:2, NKJV)

To **Prune** means to cut away that which siphons off life.

What siphons off life from the branch is called a sucker shoot.

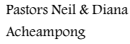
- Sucker shoots – are little branches that show up on the VINE and share the sunlight with the branches.
- Sucker shoots - don't produce anything but t suck the nutrients designed for the fruit, so the fruit does not end up becoming bigger.
- Sucker shoot - stay with you and take from you what is meant for you to produce fruit so you never become the fruit you could be.

Sucker shoots

- Sucker shoots can be **People**
 - People who divert away from you all that you need to become what God wants you to be.
 - People pulling you in the wrong direction.
 - People who take away from you what could make you fruitful.
- Sucker shoots can be **Things**
 - Things that are not wrong in themselves but they can divert us from receiving all that God has for us.
 - TV can be a sucker shoot. When the TV siphons of time and energy that you could put into experiencing God it has become a sucker shoot.
 - Hobbies can become sucker shoot if they are diverting resources meant to help you experience God.

What are the sucker shoots in your life? What are the things that are siphoning off time, energy meant to help you experience God?

There are seasons of your life when God cuts away people and things and we have no control over it. When that begins do not resist.



If you are looking for a home church, we invite you to worship with us. We believe you will find our church family to be a warm, friendly place where you can grow in your faith and discover more of God's plan for your life. We look forward to having you worship with us again! We are located at:

- 📖 Youth Bible Study, Mondays 8-9 pm
📖 Growth Group Begin in September! Find a group!