

HELEN SANDERS

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PRUNING

If you have ever had a garden or have just grown flowers or ivy in your home, you will realize there comes a time when the plants need some pruning. I have ivy plants and they really grow well, but some branches grow long and then become spindly. If I want the rest of the plant to be healthy, I must cut back these branches because they become suckers. They will suck the life out of the healthy branches. Once I have done this the plant grows thicker and healthier.

There are suckers in our lives that need to be cut away or pruned also. They are the things that cause fruit not to come forth. They are the dead branches of years past that are over and gone. They are often filled with bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, offenses, and hatred. They might even be branches of rebellion where you were asked by God to do a certain task, but you chose not to like Jonah did. If we continue to let these "suckers" grow, they will take over our lives and cause us to be fruitless.

We must be willing to submit to the master gardener's pruning shears and allow him to cut away these things. It comes through repentance. When we repent of the sin that is keeping fruit from being grown in our lives then we can branch out into love, joy, peace, and kindness and become fruitful.

What are you growing in your life? Is it time for a good pruning, or have you already done it and now see the fruit of your labor? I pray that you have, but if not, now is a good time to submit to those pruning shears.