

Household of Faith fidelity



"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." - Galatians 6:10

Week of Sunday, 22nd February 2026

The Joy that is before Us

We are motivated by many things. One of the most powerful being fear. The Hebrew writer points us to a more excellent way, a way of joy. Joy was also the motivation of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was joy that kept Jesus going, and it was joy that enabled Him to endure the cross.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - *"Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God".*

In Hebrew 11:26, we get a glimpse into Moses' mindset. We see the sense of joy, when Moses concluded that the reproaches of Christ that he received, outweighed the treasures of Egypt.

How did he arrive at this conclusion? How could Moses count that the persecution and hardship outweighed the treasures of Egypt? It doesn't make sense - most of us would take riches above reproaches!

What tilted the scale the other way? The last part of Hebrews 11:26 tells us *"... for he looked unto the joy of the recompense of reward."*

Today Egypt is an insignificant nation but Moses returned with Elijah at Jesus' transfiguration. What a change of fortunes!

In Hebrews 10:35 we are urged to *"cast not away therefore your boldness, which hath great recompense of reward."* In other words do not give up; not on yourself, not on God and not on one another; because we are on the winning side. The joy of our reward is waiting for us.

In 2026, if we set our focus right in our personal life, relationships and as a church, the result will always good. Without this focus, we drift, miss all the blessings and accumulate much sorrow.

The Bible tells us in I Timothy 6:10, that some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and have pierced themselves with many griefs ending in a life of sorrow.

Seek this joy in 2026. Then share it with your family and friends!

- Henry Kong



Fidelity is edited by Henry Kong and published weekly by the Household of Faith which meets at Block 67, #07-10 Ayer Rajah Crescent, Singapore 139950 every Sunday at 10:30am. Website: www.hofsg.com. For more details, contact the minister. Henry Kong - email: henry.kong@yahoo.com. Mobile: +65 9326 0669.

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BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Worship service with the third lesson of "Make 2026 Count" by our minister; Men preparing to serve at worship; Philemon leading the congregation in praises; Selvarajah presiding over communion; Birthday celebration for February guys - Phai, Peter and Elaine; Members enjoying lohei!

Lunar new year blessing: "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be healthy, even as your soul prospers." - 3 John 1:2

What does 'pruning' mean?

Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



prune²

/ˈpruːn/

verb

gerund or present participle: **pruning**

trim (a tree, shrub, or bush) by cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems, especially to encourage growth.

"now is the time to prune roses"

Similar:

cut back

trim

thin

thin out

pinch back

crop

clip



- cut away (a branch or stem) from a tree, shrub, etc.

"prune back the branches"

Similar:

cut off

lop (off)

chop off

hack off

clip

snip (off)

nip off



- reduce the extent of (something) by removing superfluous or unwanted parts.

"the workforce was pruned"

Similar:

A Gardener's Definition:

Pruning is a standard horticultural practice that selectively removes branches, stems, buds, or roots from plants. It is commonly performed on woody plants like trees, bushes, and shrubs to maintain or improve health, appearance, and productivity. 14 Dec 2024

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Intentional/on Purpose



for a long-term goal

The 3 types of pruning:



Heading Cut



Thinning Cut



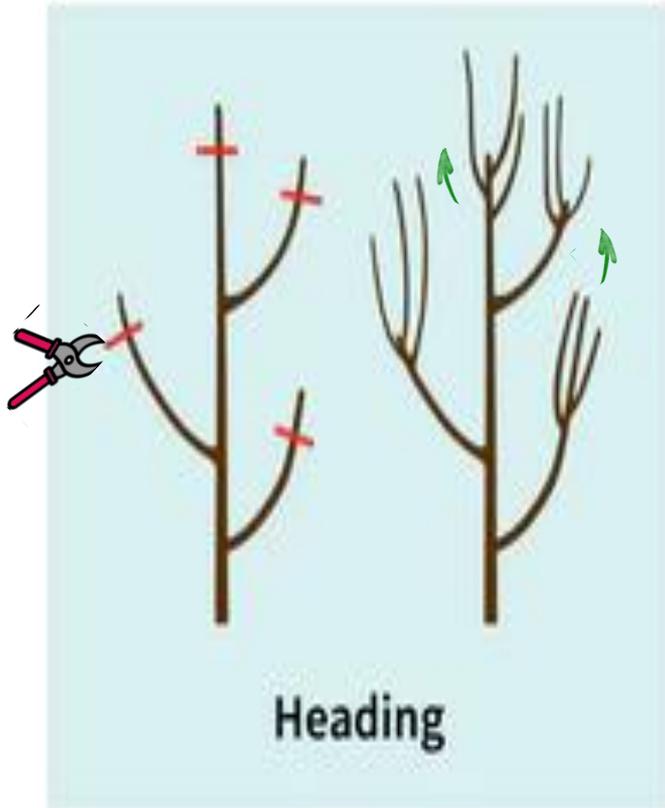
“Bench” Cut
(Re-leading Cut)



One thing to always remember:

“A plant NEVER stops GROWING!”

Growth MUST happen...

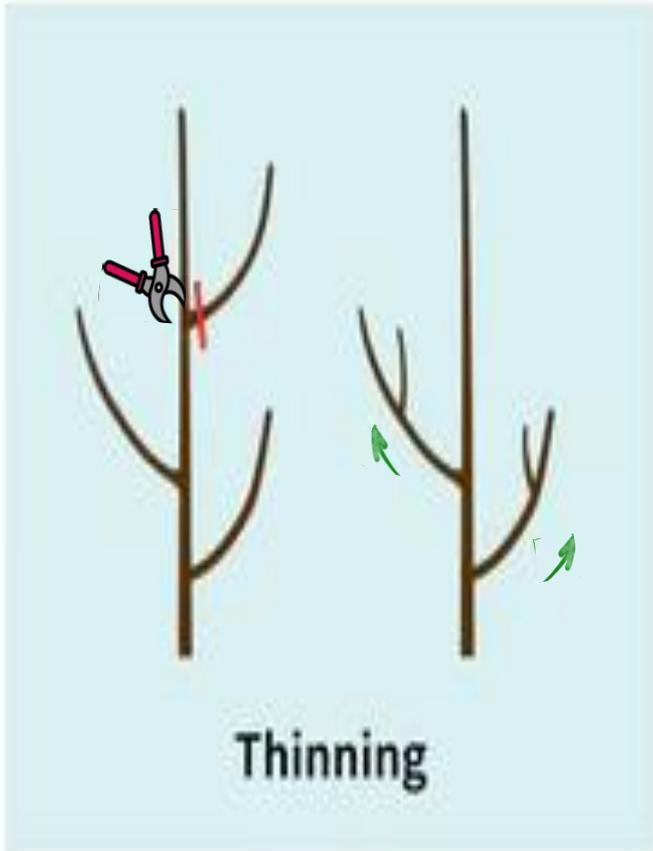


~ cutting the portion of the branch where shoot is coming out

(why?):

- stiffen branch
- create more branches → stimulating growth in other areas.

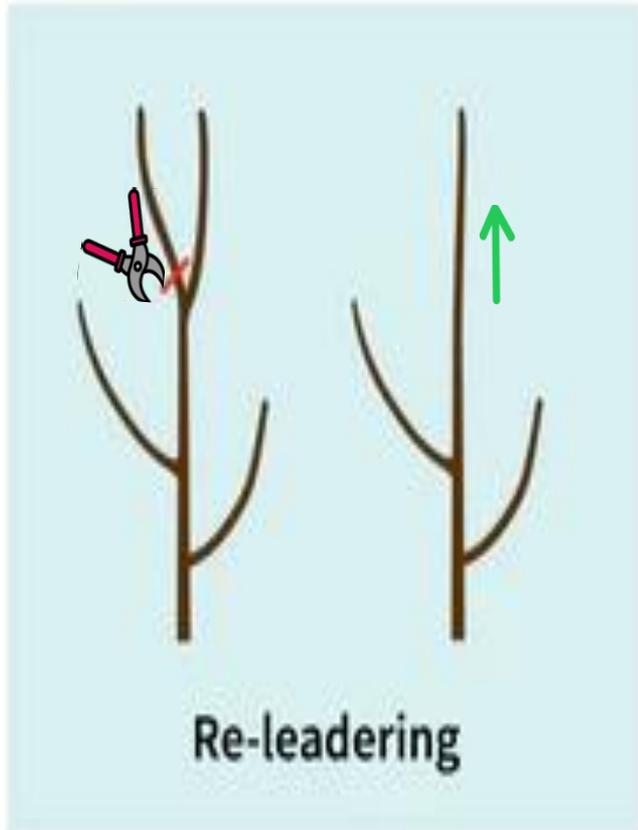




~ cut at one of the main joints

(why?):

- water + nutrients go to other “main branches”
- Other “main branches” grow stronger. □



~ about the same as “thinning”

(why?):

- water + nutrients go to the new “main branch”
- Direction Clear

“A loving farmer cuts healthy branches,
not only dead ones...”

Why does this matter?

**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every
branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even
more fruitful.**

~ John 15:1-2



Why does God prune?

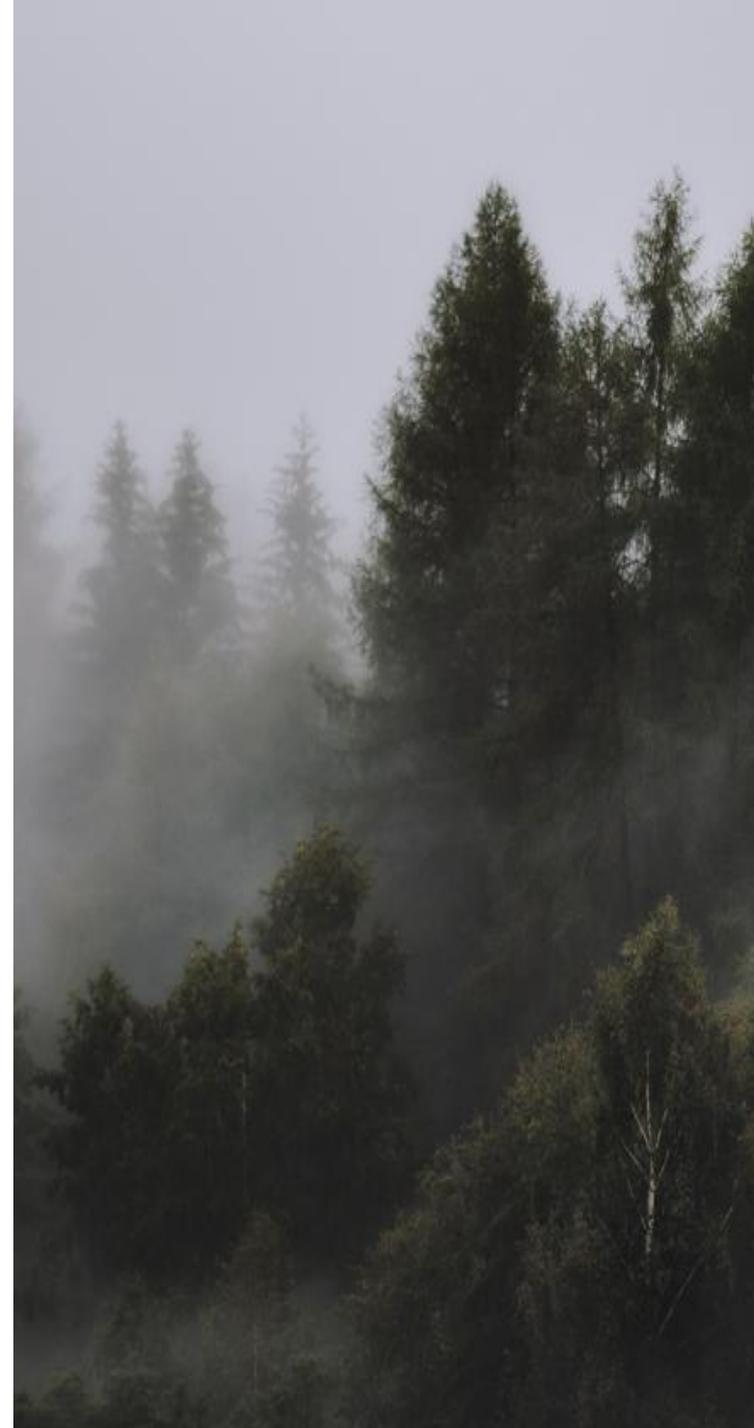
~ God is a God of Love and Peace, He does not do things out of hate...

- He sees the long-term...
- He knows what is “potential fruit” & what is not...
- He can tell what brings out more of Him within me...than less

What does God prune?

- Wrong desires
- Ungodly relationships
- Hidden sins
- Comfort zones
- Pride, ego, self-dependence
- Distractions that steal intimacy with God

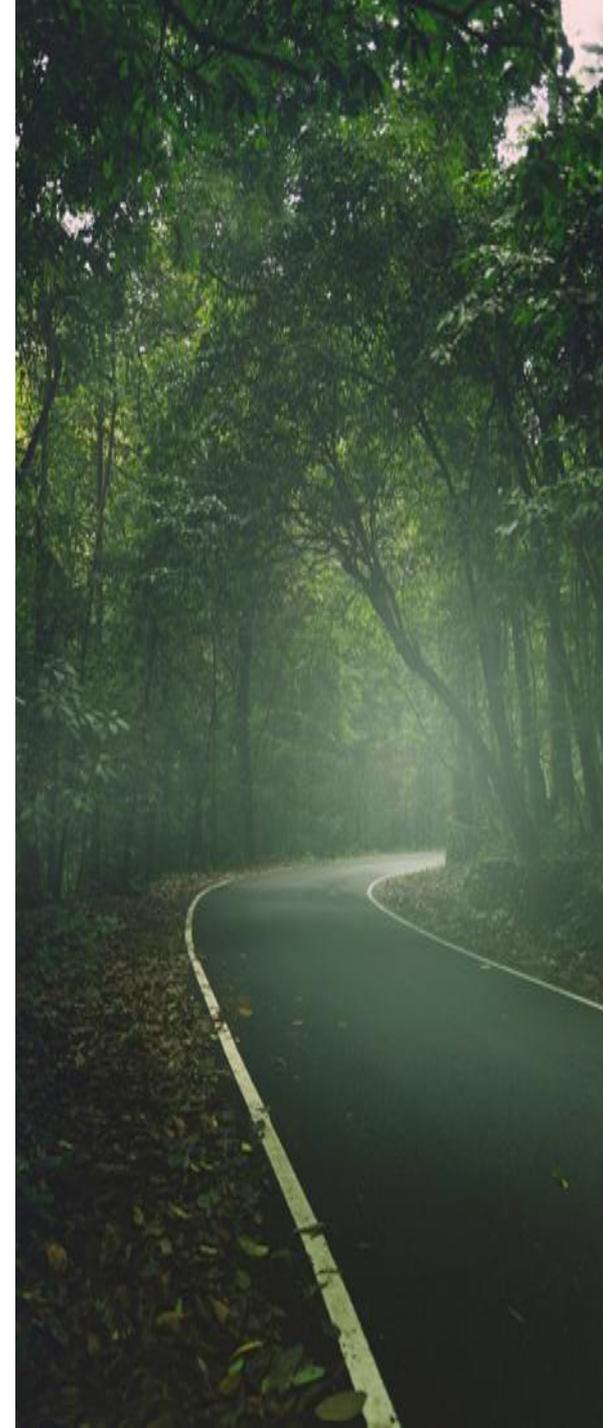
“Sometimes God removes “good” things that are stopping us from experiencing the **best things.**”



How does Pruning feel?

- Confusing
- Painful
- Lonely
- Lost
- Silent ~ especially for a long time...

-
1. **Bitter** → Running back to “Old Habits”
 2. **Better** → Improve



At the
end of the
day...

Do you still rely on God?

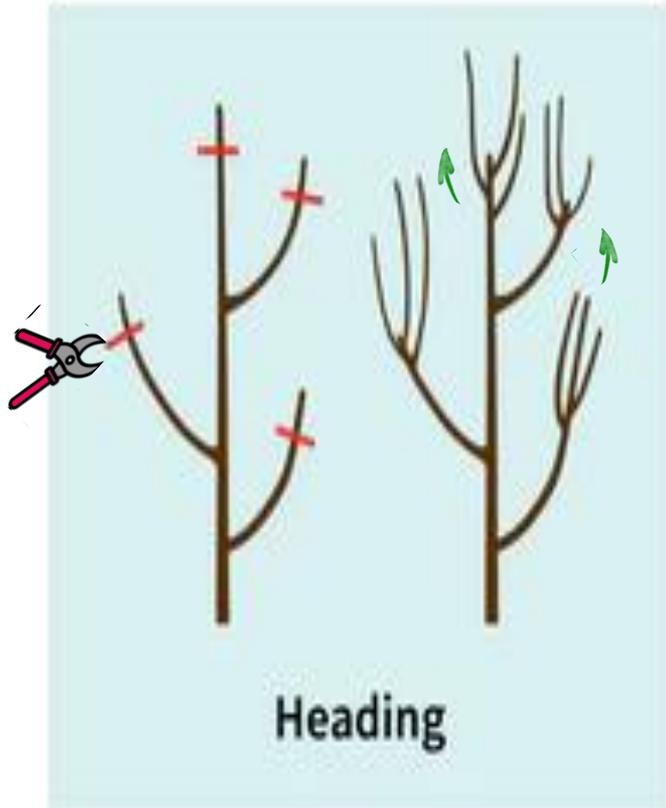
*Are you growing in
Character?*

Greater fruitfulness?

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness.”

~ **Hebrews 12:11**

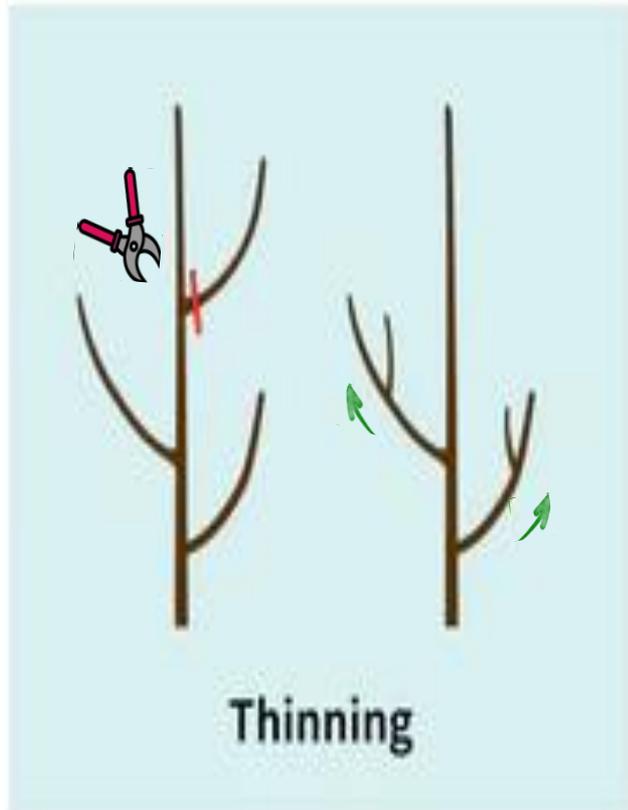




Where is God refining what is already working in your life?

“Every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

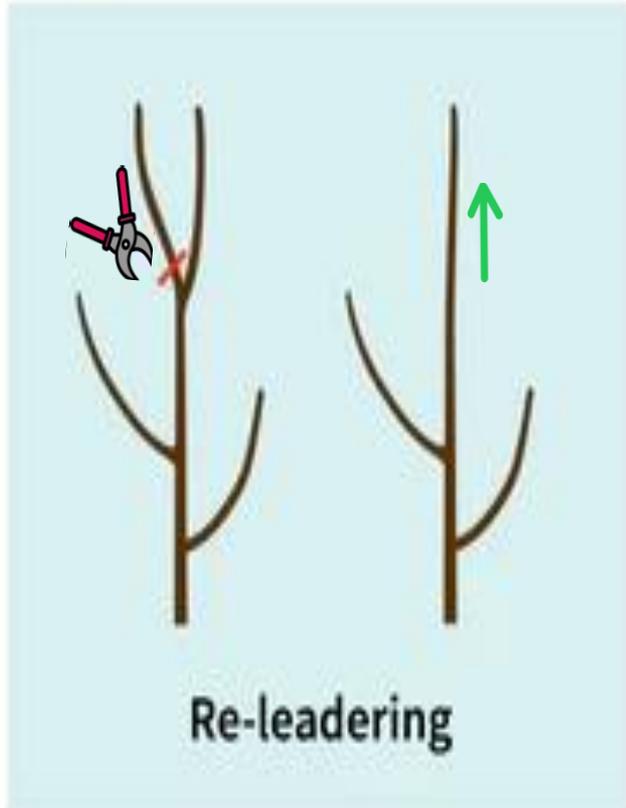
~ John 15:2



What is God clearing away so your focus can return to Him?

“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.”

~ Hebrews 12:1



Where might God be changing your direction, so you align your will with His, not just your plans?

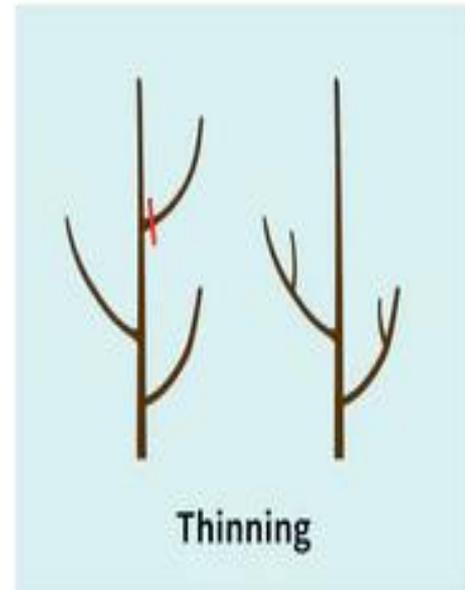
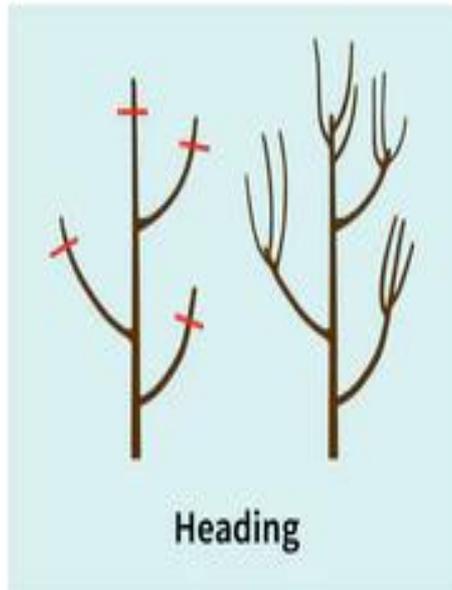
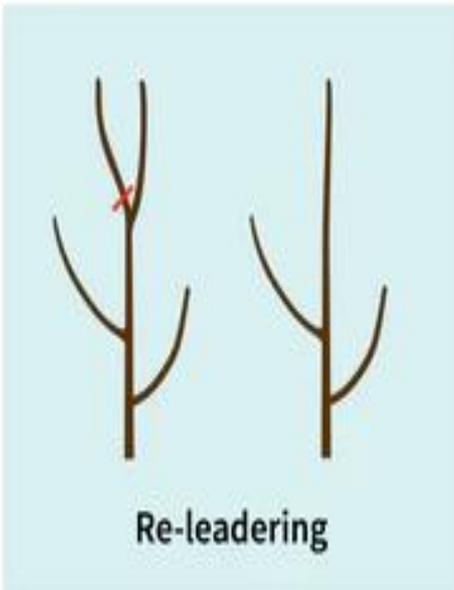
“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

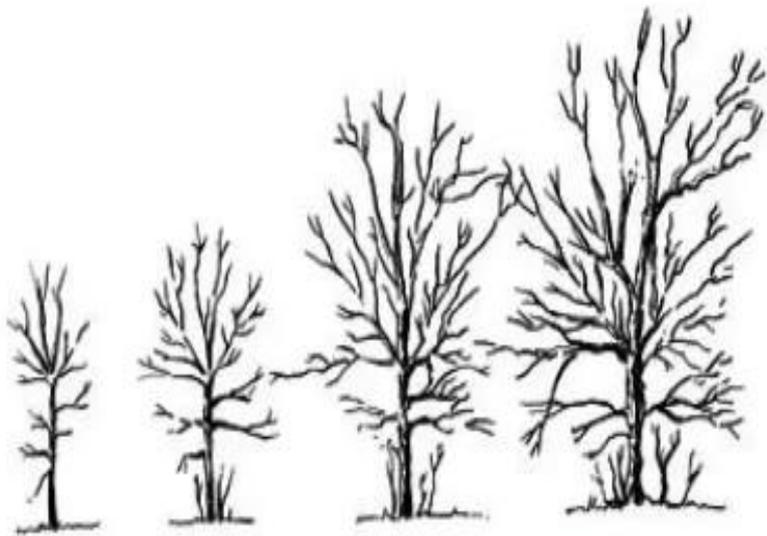
~ Proverbs 16:9

The best way is to let God HAVE HIS Way in our lives...

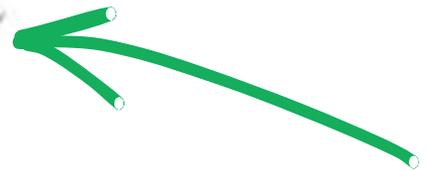
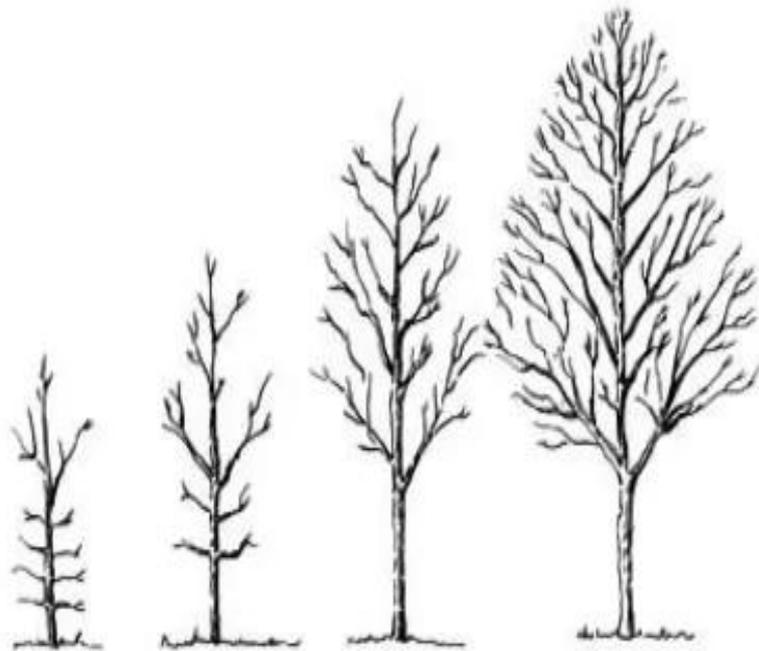
No regrets & guilt ~ because you knew you did what was right in His eyes...

Be Obedient ~ Trust Him..





An example of a tree not pruned properly



An example of a properly pruned tree