

Volume 3, Day 29: Whole and Fulfilled

If knowing that Jesus has experienced more hardship than us knows how to help us through ours doesn't encourage you, I don't know what else could. So He says, "Learn to think of your sufferings, whatever pain comes into your life as a weaning from the old sinful habit of always having to have your own way." That's how sin works. I want what I want. I want to get what I need. And when God is trying to put His joy in us that our joy might be full, that means we're not doing life the way we think best. **We know worst** what our own happiness and joy might be. **God knows best.** Then he says, "You'll be free to wake up every morning to do what God wants instead of being tyrannized." That's a good word to describe the flesh. It is being tyrannized by what we want.

The whole process of God training us is pruning us in this season. He is training us to be on the wire. When I move this cane onto the wire, I just can't move it quickly. It'll break. I've got to take it very slowly and let the vine bend because if I break this cane off I will lose all that fruit for this next year. On this one cane there will be yhere will be 10 or 12 bunches. If I break it off, the fruit will be gone.

I love the analogy of the vineyard. I grew up in one. I wrote a book called *In Season*, which is all about how we embrace this process of fruitfulness. Check it out. I think it will help you understand that *God's training in us is not God trying to make us righteous*. It's God trying to make us whole and fulfilled. And when we're there, then we'll know what His idea of righteousness is to be at home in God, to let His love train us so that we can be His kids in the earth. That's what engaging Him is all about

ENGAGING God -- Bob Clarkson