

Christ is the Vine and we are the branches; God is the one that cares for the Vine and the branches. The process of caring is here compared with pruning the Vine and its branches so that there is plenty of fruit for all.

We do a similar action when in spring or fall we clean house. I think that we are all familiar with spring cleaning or fall cleaning, even if we don't do it.

The concept is clear I think, periodically we need to clean house to free it from dead stuff, to unclutter the piles, to reevaluate our life's, to see what still fits us, what has changed, and what needs to be renewed.

One way to do this spiritual is to ask a certain question. And that question is a spiritual cleansing tool, or call it a spiritual broom that helps to clean heart and soul and sweeps out all the dust that has collected there.

The question is a very simple one, like a broom is a simple tool.

The question Is: What do I want? / What do you want? What deep in my heart and Soul do I really want? And like with a broom sometimes you don't get the dirt with one sweep; we often have to repeat that question quite a few times until we get to the bottom and see clearly (what's underneath the metaphorical dirt.)

A few indicators that heart and soul cleaning is called for are; but not limited to:

Lack of meaning and purpose in ones life:

you feel restless, unfulfilled, hear a calling but can not quite make it out, heartache, disappointment that has festered in your life, bitterness, loneliness, dissatisfaction and the likes.

Getting easily angry is also a good one or thinking that one doesn't have any issues and is perfect.

So lets do a little heart and soul spring cleaning:

The tool is a broom meaning to ask yourself the question:

What do I really want?

On first glance the question will uncover answers like:

Money, good family, success, status, good job, romantic love, and so forth.

Now if we keep sweeping the ground and ask further we might come to our perceived disappointments in life – this being a different layer:

There we find that what we really want is to improved relationship with a partner, or we wish for better health, or we wish for a companion to end our loneliness, or we wish for some meaning or purpose in our lifes, and so forth
....

Now at this point, so we are willing and not too angry or disturbed by the question and the process, of what we truly want, we can dig a bit deeper and ask the question again: what do I really want, what is it, that my heart is really longing for, what is my deepest desire?

So what do we find at the bottom of our hearts? What are those deep desires?

Our fist lesson today deals with a man who followed a desire of his heart, he came a long, long way to worship God, He read the scriptures, trying his best to make sense out of the whole thing, probably knowing that he didn't have it quite right, - yet.

So God meets him in his desire, in his longing. God instructs Philip to lend a helping hand in the process.

And Philip does as God commands. – and the story ends with answering the mans desire, he is now connected to the Vine, to Christ.

St Augustin describes his greatest desire with the words:

Unquiet is my heart 'till it rests in you Oh God. – true inner peace of the soul and heart.

The second lesson talks about fear and love, that there is no fear in love; maybe one of the deepest desires is to be free from fear, anxiety and the likes – maybe our desire is for that Love beyond our understanding.

Maybe the deepest desire is for a meaningful and purposeful existence. Have we not all felt how deeply satisfying it can be to help someone in need.

So whatever you find in your spring cleaning, whatever desires you come across, connect it to Christ and allow God to do the pruning in you; that process brings fruit for all and especially for your self.

God will meet you in your desire!