



AS YOUR FAITH IS

Part 4: The Planted Flourish

The Offended Wander

RELATIONSHIP PRODUCES RESULTS

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you.

Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

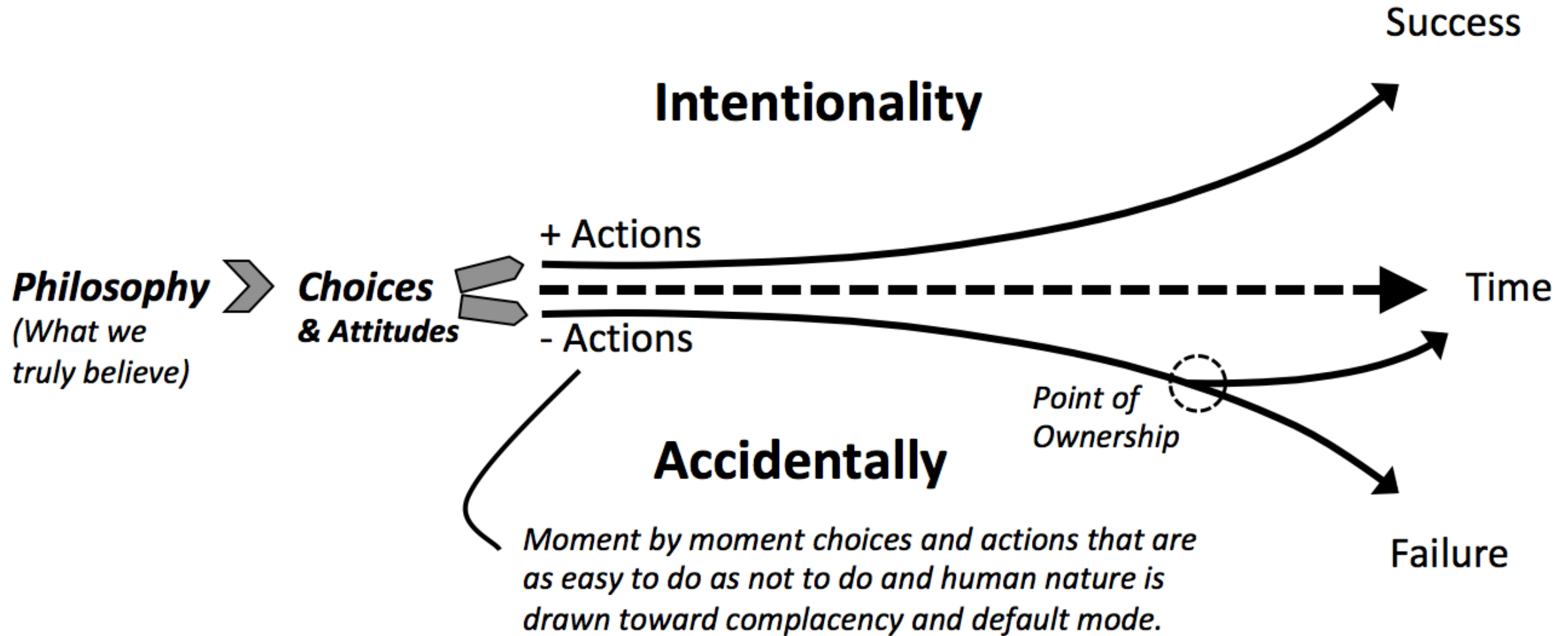
If anyone does not remain in me, [then] he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, [then] ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”



John 15:1–8 CSB

The Intentionality Model



A SHARP CONTRAST

Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, And on His Law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree **planted** by streams of water,

Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, But they are like **chaff** which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 1:1–6 NASB

FAITH: STAY PLANTED AND FLOURISH

The righteous person will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Planted in the house of the LORD, They will flourish in the courtyards of our God.

They will still yield fruit in advanced age; They will be full of sap and very green,

To declare that **the LORD is just; He is my rock, and there is no malice in Him.**

Psalm 92:12–15 NASB

**THE GOSPEL
IS OFFENSIVE,**

**BUT YOU
SHOULDN'T BE**



UH OH! GROWTH TIME!

- I am not perfect. You are not perfect.
- This Church is not perfect (no church is)
- I have chaff and I want it removed

We are the Threshing Floor and we are here to get rid of our chaff together.

We are here to do the spiritual work others won't do.

We are here to learn how to be HIS church.

So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching. Hebrews 10:22–25 MSG

HOW YOU HANDLE DETERMINES YOUR OUTCOME

For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no gossip, quarreling quiets down.

Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious person to kindle strife.

The words of a gossip are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

Like an earthenware vessel overlaid with silver impurities are burning lips and a wicked heart.

One who hates disguises it with his lips, but he harbors deceit in his heart.

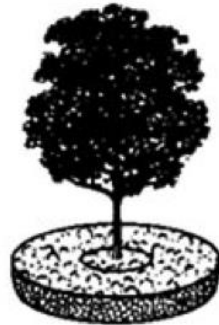
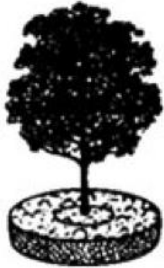
Proverbs 26:20–24 NASB

First Year. Root system diameter increases to 6 feet, 9% of original volume. With less than 10% of the absorbing roots to support a full crown (top), the tree is often under severe water stress, inhibiting top growth, including bud formation.



Second Year. Root system increases to 9 feet, 23% of original volume. The tree remains frequently under water stress, inhibiting current season growth.

Third Year. Root system diameter increases to 12 feet, 41% of original volume. As root/top balance is gradually restored, the tree is exposed to less water stress and growth improves.



root system increases.

Fourth Year. Root system diameter increases to 15 feet, 60% of original volume. The effective rate of root generation accelerates as the overall diameter of the



Fifth Year. Root system diameter increases to 18 feet, 100% of original volume. Roots and crown are now balanced and the tree should grow with normal vigor.

TRUTH ABOUT TREES

As a general guideline, it takes one year to recover per every inch of the tree trunk's diameter. For instance, if the diameter of a healthy tree is 6 inches, it can be transplanted every 6 years.



WE NEED DEEP ROOTS

“Let’s learn from the examples God gives with plants and trees. When a fruit tree is put in the ground it has to face rainstorms, hot sun, and wind. If a young tree could talk, it might say, “Please get me out of here! Put me in a place where there is no sweltering heat or windy storms!”

If the gardener listened to the tree, he would actually harm it. Trees endure the hot sun and rainstorms by sending their roots down deeper. **The adversity they face is eventually the source of great stability.** The harshness of the elements surrounding them causes them to seek another source of life. They will one day come to the place that even the greatest of windstorms cannot affect their ability to produce fruit.”

~John Bevere

GROW DEEPER

And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? **How will you understand all the parables?** The sower sows the word. These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

And in a similar way these are the ones sown with seed on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; **and yet they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they fall away.**

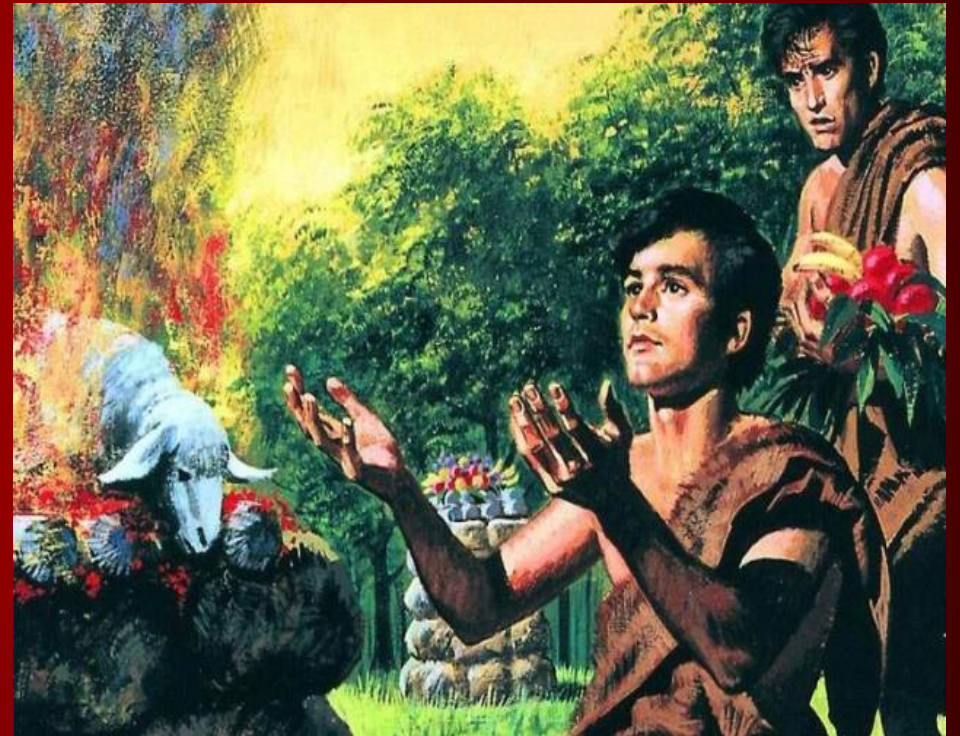
And others are the ones sown with seed among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but **the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.** And those are the ones sown with seed on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much.”

Mark 4:13–20 NASB

TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

- First sons of Adam and Eve
 - They would have known their parent's story, how their parents attempted to hide their nakedness with fig leaves (their own works).
 - God, however, demonstrated acceptable sacrifice by covering them with the skin of an innocent animal.
 - They were ignorant of this unacceptable covering of their sin until God instructed them.

Now, their children had to form their own relationship with the Lord and learn their own lessons.



CAIN & ABEL: A LESSON FOR US

- Cain likely worked harder
 - Cleared a spot for his garden--Rocks, stumps, debris?
 - Tilled soil? Planted, watered, tended?
 - It was worship of God by one's own strength and ability instead of God's grace.
- Abel brought an offering of obedience
 - He brought the first-born of his flock and their fat
 - He likely didn't work as hard
 - He understood the lesson from his parents and understood his status in God's eyes
 - There had to be blood offered!



THE LORD COUNSELS CAIN

And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering; but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy? If you do well, will your face not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Genesis 4:4–7 NASB

SIN PRODUCES MORE SIN. OFFENSE IS A TRAP.

- Cain rejects the Counsel of the Lord (pride)
- Cain kills Abel (ultimate act of self-centeredness)

GOD said, “What have you done! The voice of your brother’s blood is calling to me from the ground. From now on you’ll get nothing but curses from this ground; you’ll be driven from this ground that has opened its arms to receive the blood of your murdered brother. You’ll farm this ground, but it will no longer give you its best. **You’ll be a homeless wanderer on Earth.**”

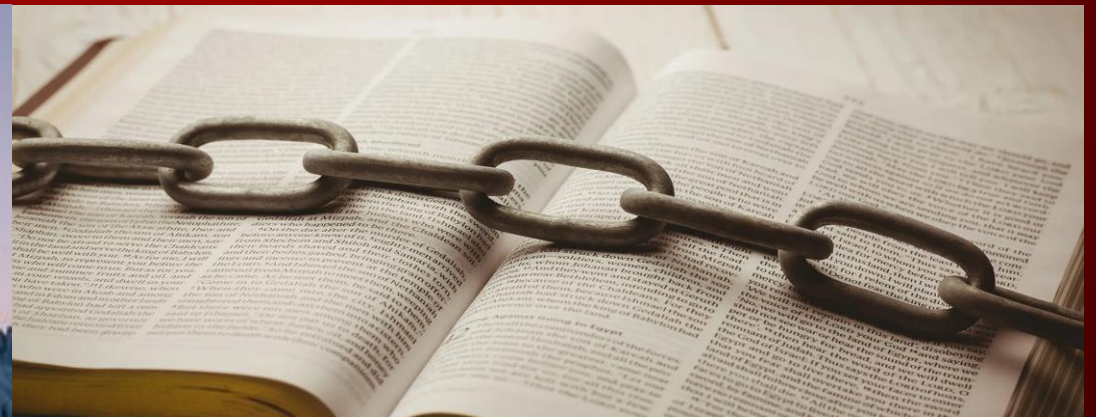
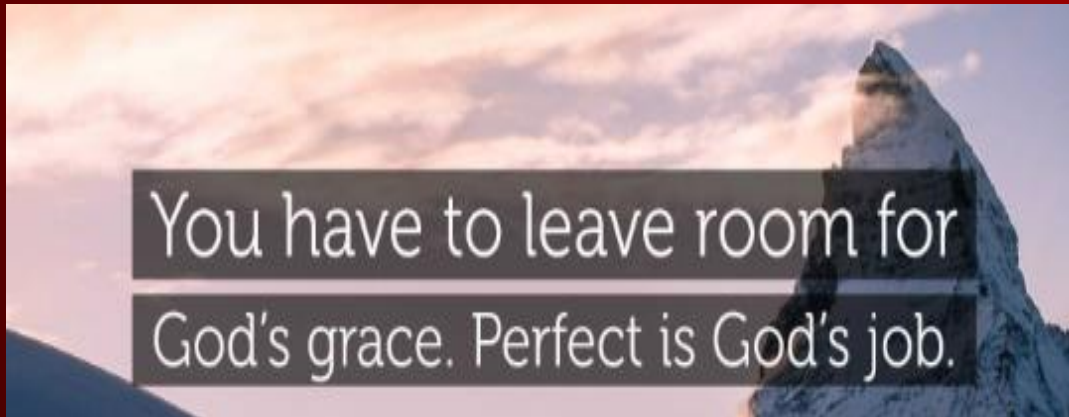
Genesis 4:10–12 MSG

OFFENSE LEADS TO A PERSECUTION COMPLEX

Cain said to GOD, “My punishment is too much. I can’t take it! You’ve thrown me off the land and I can never again face you. I’m a homeless wanderer on Earth and whoever finds me will kill me.”

Genesis 4:13–14 MSG

There is only one Judge.



OFFENSE IS A CHOICE. OFFENSE IS A TRAP.

- Once you run from where God has planted you, it becomes easier to do it the next time. And if the offense isn't dealt with, it stymies the roots and prevents health.
- Offense keeps you from seeing your own character flaws because blame is deferred to someone else.
- Choosing pride---taking control back---can lead to spiritual vagrancy; you become a wanderer, suspicious and afraid that others will mistreat you.
- This becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. You remain in offense, trapped and held in place by sin and unforgiveness.
- Crippled and hindered in your ability to produce true spiritual fruit, you struggle & live a self-centered life eating off the remains of the fruit of others.

LET THIS BE OUR DECLARATION TODAY

Holy Spirit, enable me to live in Your power so that when God, my Father, is testing my heart, He will find a heart that seeks after His heart and not the insecurity of a man or woman who seeks to take matters into my own hands.

Test my heart with obedience, Lord. I am committed to seeking only Your judgment and mercy, not my own.

I refuse to run from the difficulties in the church in which You have placed me, but I will work with my spiritual brothers and sisters to face the troubles and to work through them. I refuse to be offended and flee.

Father, allow me to become a mature tree in whom You delight rather than one that is uprooted for its lack of fruit. I am committed to being an active member of God's family.

I was not created to live separately and independently of others. I will develop the character of Christ as I care for and nurture others. I will reject the enemy's trap of offense.

I declare this in faith in my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

BEFORE WE PARTAKE



- Examine Ourselves
- Come With Thanksgiving
- Come Like a Child
- Come Humbly
- Come to Rest

COME TO MAKE AN EXCHANGE

HIS LAST SUPPER & OUR NOW SUPPER

While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is My body.”

And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many.

Truly I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again, until that day when I drink it, new, in the kingdom of God.”

Mark 14:22–25 NASB