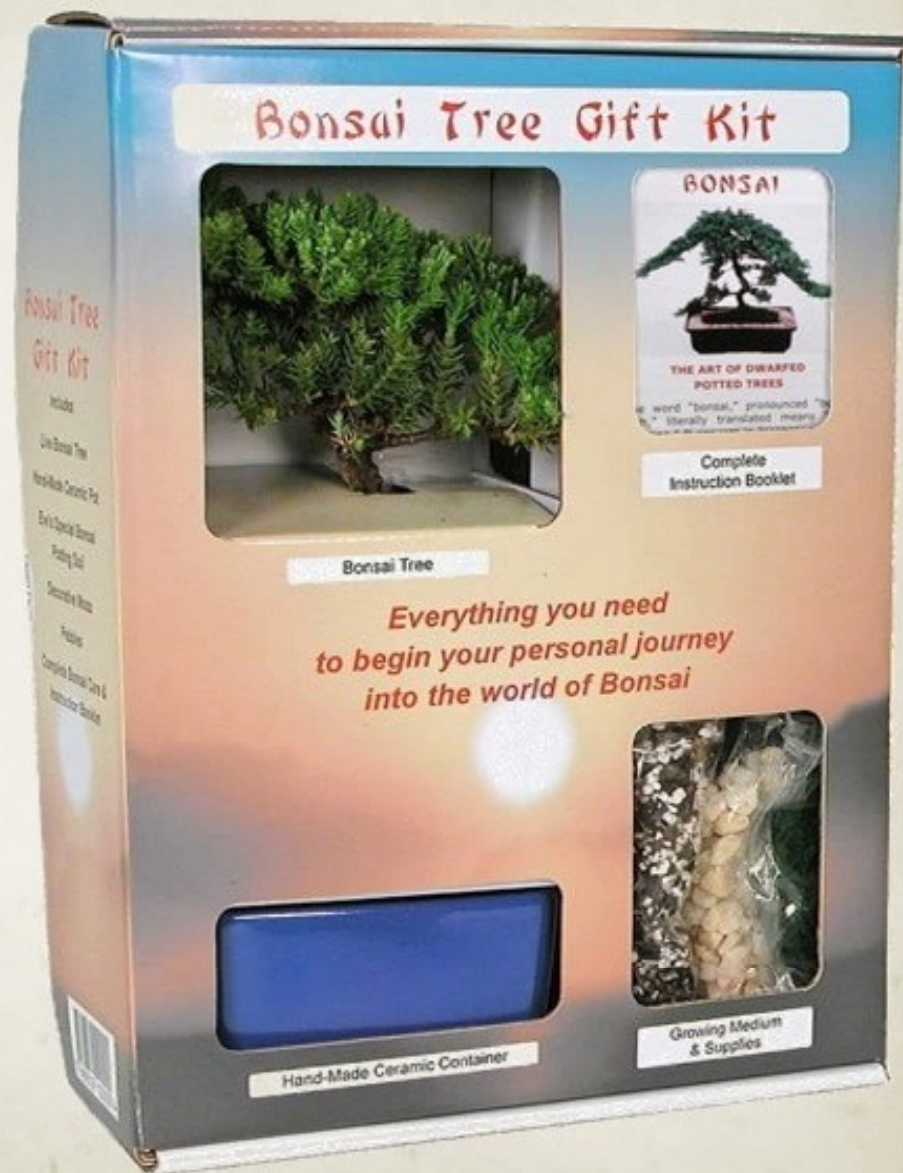


The
Bonsai Gospel



I don't Have a **Green** THUMB



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THE question:

How can I grow to become MORE
like Christ?



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1) Positioning:

If I abide In Christ, his truth and Spirit are my nutrients and power



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John 15:5-7

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.



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The Message:

7 But if you make yourselves at **home**
with me and *my words* are at **home** in you,
you can be sure that whatever you ask will
be listened to and acted upon.



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Am I “living” with Jesus?

Are his words at Home in my heart?



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Jesus was referencing Isaiah 5:1-7,

essentially saying:

I will be the true Vine of Israel
since you cannot grow *RIGHTLY*
in your own strength



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Bonsais need to be...

1) watered daily, and given nutrients
= Truth in relationship

2) outdoors in real light
= The Power of the Holy Spirit



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2) Pruning:

I can only be God's Masterpiece, if I give him artistic control.



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John 15:1-3

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 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. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.



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Skits Guys video

skitguys.com/videos/gods-chisel
(first 3 minutes)

Will I choose the chisel?

Will I apply his truth?



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Our Heart branches out for things that deprive the good branches of the sunlight it needs.

Time and Money reveal our Hearts:

-Does my Calendar need pruning?

-Do my expenditures need pruning?



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*Bonsais need pruning if they are to
reflect
the gardener's vision*



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3) Producing:

If I am to grow into What God wants me to be, I *need* his direction.



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-Pruning is about cutting off
the old,

producing is about growing
into the **new**



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John 15:8

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



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The fruit in our lives is born from
experiences God knew you would
grow from.

YOU put me here,

now what?



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Mr. Miyagi:

“Tree will heal,
if it has good roots.”



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What's at Stake?

The more fruit we produce,
The more trees we plant.



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Phil Vischer:

Veggie Tales Testimony

Am I willing to put my
dreams on the alter?



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If we position ourselves daily with Christ,
give him permission to prune what does
not belong there,
then we can produce new growth under
his guidance.



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