

COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- A New Season: Letting Go To Grow
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



A NEW SEASON: LETTING GO TO GROW

Bishop Cecil Reid

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. John 15:2

Growth always requires release. A seed cannot sprout unless it lets go of its outer shell. A tree cannot flourish unless it sheds last year's leaves. And in the same way, our spiritual growth often depends on our willingness to release what we've been holding onto.

Jesus teaches this principle in John 15:2. Pruning is not punishment—it is preparation for greater fruitfulness. Yet pruning can feel uncomfortable because it involves letting go of familiar things: old habits, stale routines, or even roles we've outgrown.

In today's fast-paced world, we often carry emotional baggage, unhealthy relationships, and unhelpful routines. The Bible encourages us to "cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). By letting go of burdens, we free ourselves to grow in love and faith.

Letting go is an act of trust. It means believing that God knows what we need more than we do. It means trusting that He will not leave empty spaces unfilled. Philippians 3:13–14 encourages us to "forget what is behind and press toward what is ahead." We cannot run freely while carrying unnecessary baggage.

Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to "lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us." Not every weight is sinful—some are simply unnecessary. Old disappointments, lingering resentment, unrealistic expectations, or habits that drain our joy can quietly clutter our spiritual lives. When we hold onto what no longer serves God's purpose in us, we leave little room for the fresh work He wants to do.

Letting go is not loss—it is preparation. When we surrender what weighs us down, we create space for peace, clarity, and renewed purpose. God delights in filling empty places with His presence. Isaiah 43:19 reminds us, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" New things require open hands and open hearts.

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As we embrace the theme of spring cleaning, consider what God may be pruning in your life. What is He inviting you to release so



that you can grow? What new fruit might emerge when you make space for His work?

Growth is God's desire for us—not just in knowledge, but in love, peace, patience, and purpose. This spring, may we courageously let go of what hinders us and step into the abundant life Christ offers.

Identifying What Needs to Go

Questions to consider:

- **Negative Mindsets:** Are you struggling with fears or insecurities that block your growth? "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7).
- **Grudges:** Is there unresolved conflict with someone? Holding onto grudges can create emotional barriers. Jesus teaches us to forgive, stating, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).
- **Unhealthy Habits:** Evaluate your daily routines and identify what's detrimental.
- **Distractions:** Address how digital or social media may divert your attention away from meaningful connections.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Southern District--
9th-11th> Spring Revival

APRIL

5th> Easter Sunday

JULY *Get Excited!*

2026 Annual Church Growth Conference
July 13th-17th

Find more information on www.cogainc.org



A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- March: the month when even the weather practices repentance—sunny one minute, sorry the next.
- Spring cleaning for the soul: because even hearts collect clutter.
- If March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb, I'm praying my attitude does the same.
- Spring is God's way of saying, 'I'm not done making things new—including you.'
- I tried to spring clean my house, but my dust bunnies formed a support group.
- March: when the flowers bloom and so does my allergy prayer life.
- Spring cleaning is biblical—'Let all things be done decently and in order' (1 Cor. 14:40)... even the closets.
- If you hear me humming 'Create in me a clean heart,' I'm probably staring at my to-do list.

Welcome
March

