

WEED AND FEED

Many of us need to begin practicing weed and feed Christianity. You probably remember watching the Saturday morning cartoons and when an individual would be caught in an accident in the sea, his friends would bring him to shore and while they were pushing on the stomach or chest would say, "out with the bad, in with the good." This is good advice for the individual who wants to follow Christ and be faithful to Him.

As we work on our lawns we practice weed and feed lawn care. We use chemicals, weed killers, and sometimes a small spade to get rid of weeds. We don't want, any clover, dandelions, or thistle growing in our lawns. But at the same time we use fertilizers, controlled amounts of water, and additional grass seed to grow a thick healthy lawn.

This process of weed and feed (weed out the bad, feed by fertilizer the good) is the proper way to grow as a Christian. The sin that is in our life must be weeded out and repented of. But that is not enough, the fruit of the Spirit and the Christian graces must be on the increase to attain mature growth.

Galatians lists some the sinful practices that one might engage in if he wants to go to Hell. The scripture "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envyings, drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." This list is given that we might know of what things to weed out of our lives, for the sake of eternal life with God in heaven.

But on the other side of the coin we see that Paul doesn't stop with verse 21 but goes on to tell us what things are conducive to be able to grow; "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22,23). These things need fertilizer and water from us so they can grow in our soul. The apostle Peter has a very similar list in his second letter, see 2Peter 1:5-8.

The exciting thing about "out with the bad, in with the good" is that they complement each other so well. When we take things out of our lawn that steal the minerals, water, and other needed elements, then those things can be used for the good of the grass. When we help the grass grow stronger and thicker, it begins to choke out the weeds. Again, the same is true in our daily walk. By repenting of sin, we begin to loose the Spirit so He can work within us to greater degree. By working on growing in the things (fruit) of the Spirit we forsake the sin that weighs us down.

There is a war going on out there in lawn our between the weeds and the grass. And if I have anything to do with it, the grass is going to win! There is also a war going on in soul between sin and the fruit of the Spirit (righteousness), and if I have anything to do with it, I'm going to weed and feed my way to righteousness.