

How does your Garden Grow?

Dear Friends,

July, 2023

I've been praying about what to write to you this month and while out watering some of my thirsty plants I realized I was experiencing some of the curse God put on Adam!

God had given Adam a strong warning and given consequences if he didn't follow His instructions about a particular tree in the garden. Adam was given free reign in the garden with only one (just 1) restriction. Wouldn't it be nice to only have one rule to follow?!

As we read in Genesis chapter 2 Adam was a gardener and caretaker of God's creation. Genesis 2:15-17. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

So, in chapter 3 we find that this one rule was ignored and trouble was placed on us all. There are five curses God gives in addition to the death sentence He promised. The first is to the serpent, messenger of deceit, the second is to Eve and problems in child birth, the third is problems in marriage and finally Adam is cursed in his profession as gardener of God's kingdom.

Genesis 3:17-19 And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Well, two things caught my attention while watering my plants. First was the sweat on my face and the second was that the only plants in my yard that are flourishing are weeds and I don't water them. Why are they doing so well and the ones I want to grow are struggling? God has kept His promise, and whether we like it or not, we are suffering because of Adam's disobedience.

Thankfully Jesus has corrected the death sentence part of the curse.

Romans 5:19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so

by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Thank you, Jesus!!!

But we still must put up with those five other curses we have inherited.

Dear Jesus, give us grace as we live in this cursed world.

Thinking about the part of God's curse on man's life retuning to dust I'm experiencing a little of that as I grow older :- (I would appreciate your praying for Debi's and my health. I am having problem with my eyesight and my hearing and either of these problems could end my work at Alpha. Yes, I could retire now but, as long as God provides for Alpha and people continue to seek help from the Bible I have no reason to quit. I love serving God at Alpha!

Thank you for your prayers and support for Alpha.

Richard

Alpha Counseling Services

