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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

July 5, 2009

"Be joyful always; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ." I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Greetings & Blessings:

In the last four years, since my walking abilities have become limited, we have hired a commercial firm to fertilize and overseed our lawn. We learned that the healthier the lawn, the thicker the grass, the more impossible it is for weeds (even dandelions) to get established. We now enjoy the greenest, most weed-free lawn of our lives.

Thinking about this I realized the same principle is true for our personal, individual lives. If our minds are not healthy -filled with God-thoughts- the weeds have room to creep in. Remember the man from whom Jesus cast out a vicious demon? Jesus then cautioned that if he didn't fill his life with God's Spirit, other spirits, much less desirable would soon take up residence in the vacated space. (Luke 11)

So we each need to ask ourselves how we use our lives. What kinds of thoughts do we dwell on? Be aware, our days, hours, and minutes do get filled with something. And we do have the ability to control what occupies our space and time, our thoughts and actions. The problem is that often we roll along without exercising this control. We allow sheer chance, or those around us, or the power of long habit to dictate our attitudes, thoughts, decisions and actions. But we are not puppets to be controlled by anyone or anything other than our own minds, wills, and spirits. We make decisions. We choose. What we need is to become more conscious of what choices we are making. What ideas, attitudes, or habits are we allowing into our "space?"

The apostle Paul suggests **"You'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things that are true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, and gracious –the best not the worst, the beautiful not the ugly, things to praise not things to curse. ... Do that and God, who makes everything work together will work you into His most excellent harmonies."** (Philippians 5 –Peterson's The Message)

We each have a choice: to fill our lives with things that are good or to allow the weeds to take over. As gardeners of our own lives and souls we need to consult more with the Master Gardener, the One who made us in the first place. He will, if we ask, help us choose wisely and empower us by His Holy Spirit to have green, healthy, growing lives (lawns) to enjoy.

Thanks be to God.

(Rev.) John McGurrin