

GoLife200 | Intro

Tending Your Garden, Part II

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God's Method to Change the World: Start in Your Own Garden

I. What does God ask us to do with our garden?

- A. See it. Look hard and think about it!
- B. Pray for it. The borders of your ministry are the borders of your prayer.
- C. Cultivate it with word and deed.
- D. Use the gifts and tools God has given to you (Exodus 4:1).
- E. Harvest it.
- F. Look to grow it (Luke 16:10-12).
- G. Teach other believers to work their gardens

II. Hurdles and objections in caring for our gardens:

- A. In a fallen world, the natural condition of the garden is weeds.
 - 1. Our "self" will need to be overcome.
 - 2. Satan and others will need to be overcome.
 - a. Satan or others will attempt to steal our vision and focus (John 10:10).
 - b. Our flesh must be overcome (comfort, pride, fear).
- B. Four major objections we must overcome and teach others to overcome:
 - 1. "I don't believe I can change" (missed goals and past failures).
 - a. The world, the flesh, and the devil wait at the mouth of the cave.
 - 2. "I don't want to change" (dealing with "friendly sins").
 - a. The price of change (discomfort) is not worth the life of the sin.
 - b. It isn't so bad (others do it/you do it).
 - c. Is this "friendly sin" paying me secondary gain?
 - 3. "I am angry at God or someone and rebel against change."
 - a. Caught in the "mental movies" and don't want out of the "jail cell."
 - b. I don't want to face the possibility of failure, so I stay in jail.
 - 4. "I don't know how to change."
 - a. I've felt bad before and I didn't change (2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 Samuel 24:16).
 - b. I've felt good before and didn't change.
 - c. I changed and then "changed back."
- C. Four major principles that lead to change:
 - 1. Change begins with a genuine hunger for truth and reality (John 3:19-20).
 - 2. Change is usually precipitated by a crisis we successfully work through.

3. Change “of the moment” (insight, emotion, meetings) will need coaches and pastors to help train you how to hold the change by correct practice and knowing what to reject.
4. Real change must be practiced until becomes a reflex (1 John 5:3).
 - a. Hebrews 5:11-14: What made you fall back?
 - b. Deuteronomy 6:4-9: Surround yourself with appropriate reminders.
 - c. John 3:21: Revelation is married to practice if God is truly manifesting Himself.
 - d. Philippians 3:17: Paul says to watch my life patterns.
 - e. Proverbs 6:20-23; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Colossians 2:5; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Peter 1:11; 1 John 1:6; 1 John 3:10 (among many)
- D. Five basic laws of change for “change agents”:
 1. Attitude: Get in the big picture and stay in it.
 2. Action: Take ownership of God’s spiritual principles and practice them daily.
 3. Experience: Know what you know and build your testimony.
 4. Opportunity: Seize daily opportunities to bring transformation into your sphere of influence.
 5. Worship: Enjoy God working in you and with you.

III. Facilitating the change process in others:

- A. We must remove our objections to God using us.
 1. Deal with known disobedience.
 2. Deal with fear or a sense of unworthiness.
 3. We must be in enough transformation to be “active.”
- B. We must be current in our prayer life for our sphere of influence (internal faith/ external “key” to our sphere) (2 Corinthians 10:13-18).
 1. We have seen this already.
 2. Prayer releases people.
- C. We must be walking in a “hungry place” to hear and see, by the Holy Spirit, where and in whom God is working.
 1. We must look for openings.
 2. We must act when we see them.
- D. We must ask people questions that engage them in an internal struggle or crisis.
 1. We must be “clean” so that the struggle is not about us but between “you and you” (Irving).
 2. Humanism wants to avoid crisis or quiet. God usually helps release them to “wake people up!”
- E. The goal of the internal conversation in a crisis:
 1. If what I say is true, why isn’t it working? (them)
 2. If what I’m saying is true, why don’t I do it? (us)
 3. What in this situation is working against me?

4. When working with others, we have no greater power than the power of our testimony. “Let me share with you what this truth/principle has done for me” (John 9:25: All I know was, I was blind and now I see).
5. “Can we talk about some of the obstacles to change that you and I both face?”
6. “Will you consider praying with me now about this?” OR “May I pray for you?” (Never denied! The power of request.)

IV. Summary:

- A. Find your garden and care for it.
- B. Deal with your objections to God using you.
- C. Work on understanding the dynamics of the transformation process.
- D. Recruit others to do all the above.
- E. Use this training to build up your church and God’s Kingdom in your area!

TENDING MY GARDEN

"The borders of my ministry are the borders of my prayer life."

THINGS TO PRAY FOR:

- Relationship with God
- Health in spirit, soul & body
- Physical & financial provision
- Family relational life
- Spiritual Growth
- Ministry fruitfulness
- Power in prayer life
- Protection from evil & discouragement
- Living in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Living today with a renewed mind

I. CARING FOR MYSELF AND MY FAMILY (1 TIMOTHY):

My current needs:

Spouse:

Children:

Parents:

Siblings:

Other relatives:

II. SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS & FRIENDSHIPS

Key Relationships:

Mentorship & Spiritual Care:

III. COMMUNITY:

Work:

Church:

Neighbors:

Others:

IV. KEY SCRIPTURES I AM WORKING ON IN MY LIFE:

V. ISSUES GOD IS WORKING ON WITH ME: