

March 18, 2021

After two days of rain, the sun is at last gilding the tops of the clouds floating above my garden. The weeds have proliferated, despite a biting cold winter, and it's time to clear them, put down the weed suppressant, and re-mulch all the beds. It's a perfect day for such a task. The weather is sunny and crisp, and the soil is moist and lazy. I won't sweat out a tumbler of fluid and the dirt won't hold onto the weeds. I should be rejoicing – but the task is daunting nonetheless – blunting my enthusiasm.

I just don't feel like weeding the garden. My motivation is at low ebb. I know this is the perfect time, the perfect day, and perfect circumstances. It will never be easier than today. I want the weeds to be gone. I know the garden will be beautiful once it has been tended and cleared, but the task seems overwhelming at the moment.

I need to remember that the process itself is not as difficult as my anticipation. When I'm out there doing the actual work, I enjoy myself. The sun will warm my neck and the clean air will fill my senses. Even the task of pulling the weeds themselves will be satisfying and rewarding.

In the same way, I want the weeds in my life gone, but finding the motivation to get rid of them seems daunting. When the focus is on the weeds, it can seem an overwhelming and undoable task. The actual reality is that, when walking with Jesus, He makes the task easy and even pleasant. It is only my stubborn holding on to my weeds, that creates the conflict and difficulty. I'm reminded of a time I cried out to God to save me from a noxious weed in my life. I was afraid to pull it out, afraid to let it go – the evil one had convinced me that removing it would be hard and painful. Finding the motivation was difficult.

So I let the weed grow into a tree, poisoning my life, bringing with it all the misery that sin delivers until I finally surrendered and begged God to show up with an axe. Then I braced myself for the painful excision, expecting to be decimated by the removal of such a large sin. But then my Savior gave me a son; and in that act gave me both the motivation and power to surrender my hold on the weed.

*Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalms 37:4*

Jesus tells us that there will be trouble in this world, but he also adds 'Take heart, for I have overcome the world.' His power and presence is available to each of us, every day, in our journey through life. If we focus on Him, the source of our redemption, He will also become the source of our strength.