

Proverbs 14:15  
The simple believe anything,  
but the prudent give thought  
to their steps.

Weeds or flowers?

A few months ago, I planted a packet of wildflower seeds down the side of my house. The flowers that finally came up are beautiful and I love seeing them when I pull into the drive. As the shoots started to break through I could see the makings of a number of different types of flowers, but I also found myself unable to pick wildflower shoots from weeds. So I let them go, hoping it would be clearer later on. One part of the garden is in full shade all day and the plants are growing strong, but they are not flowering. They just stay green.

Now I was hoping the flowers would point out the difference between the wildflowers and the weeds, but here I am, today, with some honking great green, nonflowering, plants, and I still don't know which are weeds and which are flowers. A friend pointed out a definite weed, but I lost track of it and when I went back, I couldn't remember which one it was. So I leave it because if it is a wildflower, I will destroy it by mistake.

I know there's a spiritual principle in all this. The weeds blend in; they add bulk to the garden while they sap the nutrients. I know the scripture regarding the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13), although the purpose of that scripture is different than this meditation. I know these are just flowers. I can dig up the garden and replace it in an instant, but it makes me consider not just how much I know about the LORD and scripture, but also what I do with it.

Do I ignore the little lies that comfort me each day or do I let the truth of God be my comfort? These are some of my lies -

-- Before I had the comfort of knowing my mother was saved, I allowed myself to think that since she was a nice little old lady, and one who did a lot for people her whole life, "she should be fine" – whatever *fine* meant. How could a loving God do anything bad to this little woman?

-- I have friends whom I know are not saved, but I fall into the stream of thought that they'll catch onto God eventually; that sometimes I'm too close to be of benefit.

-- I find myself weighing my sins against those of others, and judging myself okay because I consider their sins weightier than mine."

I let these lies (weeds) rest comfortably among the truths (flowers) of scripture, truths that will mow them down at the end of days. But at what cost?

-- It is true that God *loves* everyone, no matter their sin or how they've lived their life. It is also true that His very love of us, and for truth and justice, is why He sacrificed Jesus on our behalf.

-- It is true that God gives us time to "catch on" – here on earth. It is also true that the moment we step into eternity, that time ends, His wrath ensues, and it is game over.

-- It is true that scripture identifies specific sins – but since one sin is enough to separate us from God

without the salvation of Jesus Christ, then we must deal with every sin equally. It is level ground at the foot of the cross.

Just as God's attributes are those of love, glory, majesty, beauty, sacrifice, provider, protector (to name a few), He is also a God of justice, discipline, wrath, judgment, truth, fairness.

Man has taken God's message of forgiveness and second-chances here on earth, and extended it to life after death. We comfort ourselves with platitudes – she'll be fine, things will work out, they'll catch on, *God is love (set to a flowery backdrop with a harp playing)*, I'll be fine when I get there, I've got time. We've all heard, and used, these and other easy little fibs that comfort our senses, but which lay in wait for the day when we stand before the LORD, face to face. In that moment, expecting to be accepted, we give an accounting and find ourselves wanting. If we are saved we are accepted, because God sees us only through the work of Jesus. But what about those we know who are not saved? Do they hear the truth about God from us? Or do we keep it to ourselves because we no longer recognize the weeds from the flowers? Do we try to make it comfortable? These are the weeds we leave in our garden, waiting to see how things turn out.

The key is to know which are the weeds (lies) and which are the flowers (truths), and then use that knowledge to speak of it to others. If we know the truths, we have the strength. If we prefer the lies, we are lost.

Uproot the lies. Nurture the truths.

Blessings.