## Satan's Eden no. 131

## Watering the Seed Thoughts in Your Mind pt. 3 October 8, 2023 Brian Kocourek. Pastor

Let's bow our heads in prayer.

Gracious Father, we're so thankful, Lord, to continue in this study, from Satan's Eden and the watering of Your seed. And Father, we just pray that these words would just help the people, Lord, to really take control of who they are.

In Jesus Christ's Name we pray. Amen.

You may be seated.

The Bible says, "To have friends you must show yourself friendly" and in order to show it, you must first think it. If you keep sowing the same particular train of thought, be it good or bad, it cannot help but produce its results on the character and on circumstances in which you live.

Now think about that. Not only do your thoughts and meditating on those thoughts contribute to building your character, but also has to do with the circumstances that you go through. Now you might say, I kind of doubt that. We're just kind of live as we live. Now, let me just say this, what we're going to look at today is that your own circumstances are a result of what's in your mind.

Sure, there are times like with Israel and Hamas, the war that's going on right now. But Israel killed 200 of their people before they retaliated. So, it's not just a one-way street. So, had their circumstances been different, it would be different. It wouldn't have war.

**Isaiah 58:11** "And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and **thou shalt be like a watered garden**, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

Jeremiah 31:12b "Their Soul shall be as a watered Garden."

Well, now, what does this talk about, a watered garden? Well, you see, your thoughts in your mind are seeds. And so, they just need to be watered. And then they're going to express themselves and they can't help but to express

themselves, because they are seeds. So, if you water them, they're going to blossom. If you don't water them, they're going to die and shrivel up and go away.

Therefore, everything you are, it's a big statement here, but everything you are, even your **Character** comes forth from the **Garden of** your thinking, your **thoughts** that are in your heart, making you what you really are. And the Garden of your thoughts affects everything that is already in you, not only affecting your character, and molding your character, because God knows what you have need of. So not only does it mold your character, but even to the circumstances that you enter into daily, and even affects the way you handle those circumstances. And God uses those circumstances to shape your character into the final product that He has predestined for you.

Wow, I think we could just go home right now. I mean, that's a lot to think about, but I've got more.

Therefore, every trial you endure, every test God puts you through, comes about as a result of the seed thoughts that lay within your own heart.

Remember I told you, when you're born again, you enter the family, you're about at this level, just a newborn babe, and you've got to reach a full maturity to be adopted. Well, every trial you endure along the way, every thought that comes through your mind comes about as a result of the seeds that are laying in there.

And how you respond to it is how you mature. You take the 1st-grade test, and you pass it. You mature to 2nd grade; you take the 1st grade test, and you don't pass it. You stay behind and you go through the same test over and over and over again, until, as Einstein said, if you think that you can do the same thing over and over and over again and get a different result, he said, that's the first sign of insanity.

Therefore, every trial you endure, every test God puts you through, comes about as a result of the seed thoughts that lay within your heart.

Therefore, every thought seed that is sown, or that we allow to fall into the fertile soil of our minds, to take root there, will produce its own, after its own likeness or nature.

You wonder why we have so much killing. But it began with the videos the kids were watching "the shoot 'em ups", and then graduated to the paintball warfare and had grown men play it. When I was a child, I played war. I played Indians and Cowboys, and we did all kinds of stuff because we're influenced by the movies. All right. Then you get older, and you see these adults are playing video games or they're playing red paintball and things like that. You say, what's happening? They're being programmed to be killers. They're being desensitized to what life is.

Sooner or later each thought seed we have sown in our hearts will have to take blossom and become manifested in our lives as an action or deed. And each action or deed will bear its own fruit in terms of opportunities and circumstances. As the Scripture tells us, good thoughts will bear good fruit and bad thoughts will bear bad fruit.

Therefore, Loving thoughts will create an atmosphere of help, and trust, which crystallize into habits of Grace and kindness and charity, which will create further circumstances of friendliness and cheerful benevolence, and reciprocity on the behalf of those who are the recipients of your loving thoughts.

In other words, Brother Branham said, the action you take toward a person may determine their eternal destination. Why? Because they start to do nice things for you. Because you've done nice things for them.

And at the White Throne, if they're not elect, God will certainly say, hey, you treated My elect very good. So, what caused them to do that? You did? You caused them to be loving.

You caused them to share themselves, share whatever they have with you. And they don't understand, but they're actually going to be rewarded for it.

Apostle Paul spoke of our Love which is our outward manifestation of our revelation as something which is reflective of your character inside.

Just like I told Brother Don, he was just kind of upset, because he wasn't going home. He didn't understand why God hadn't taken him. And I said, Brother Don if you want to sit here another eight weeks, keep it up. Otherwise, be really friendly and lovely. And he did and he went. So, you see, you say, well what should I choose? I don't know. I'm sorry. I try to be

nice, but sometimes I'm not, So maybe God has to get me all the way there. OK, would you bear with me?

1 Thessalonians 1:4 Wuest "Remembering unceasingly your works produced and characterized by the Faith which is yours, (In other words, your faith produces and characterizes your actions,) and your toil which is motivated and characterized by your divine and self sacrificial Love, and your patient endurance under trials which finds it's source in your hope which rests in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of God, even the Father."

So, you see, it all comes from the outside. The leaf on the plant, where was it? It was inside the seed. It was inside the plant. It came out. It just manifested itself. Why? It got enough water, you see.

Do you see how our Faith, or revelation works into us an outward expression which brings glory back to God our Father? And Apostle Paul also spoke of the early church in Ephesus as having this outward love towards all the brethren.

**Ephesians 1:15** Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and **love unto all the saints,** Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

Why? Because he's seeing an outward expression of love unto all the Saints. He says, making mention to you in my prayers,

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Wow, His glory of His inheritance in the Saints.

And we read in **Colossians 3:12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Now you say, how can I put those on? You become what's in the mind. The action flows from the mind, so it's got to affect the mind first.

And again in 1 Pet 3:1-7 1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation (or the life) of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

In other words, they've all got their eyes on you.

**5** For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: **6** Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. **7** Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, (in other words, let the mind of Christ be in you) having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

You people say, well that's just really pitiful. Yeah, you're supposed to be pitiful.

- **9** Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. **10** For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: **11** Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.
- **12** For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers:

but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready

always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. Now, the word "conversation" again means you're good living, your good life in Christ.

**17** For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. So, you're going to suffer, for both. But the evil-doing comes from your mind. But the good-doing comes from your mind as well.

In other words, pure thoughts will create an atmosphere of holiness and sobriety, which crystallizes, think of the word crystallizes, into habits of sanctification and self-control, which further solidify into circumstances of rest and peace.

This is all under your control. God placed the entire world under Adam's control, and then his wife blew it, and he blew it with her. He had it all and he let it go.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming (or Parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, God wants to sanctify you holy.

Romans 6:17-19 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

And how did you become the servants of righteousness? Because you thought righteousness. You can't help being righteous, right? The Bible says that a man that doth right, is righteous actually. So, you can't help it. Your thoughts are righteous. You become righteous.

**19** I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

So, what does righteousness produce? What does right doing produce? Holiness. You see? Where does it come from? The garden of your mind. It's all there. All those seeds are planted within you. All those seeds are in you, you just have to water them. Is that right?

**2 Corinthians 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Now we're going to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh as see, taste, feel, smell, and hear. In other words, I'm going down the street and Brother Branham said he kept a little cross hanging on his mirror, and when he came across something you shouldn't have his eyes on, he turned them on Christ, like we sing the song, turn your eyes upon Jesus. I don't know how many times in my younger years, I'm too old for this stuff anymore.

But when I was a young man, and I'd be driving down the road, and for some reason, something compelled me to turn my head and look over. And in between the house, I saw some woman laying out and, sunning herself. And I turned my eyes back and I had a cross in my car and I looked upon the cross. You see, having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh.

We don't listen to rock'n'roll music. We don't watch things we shouldn't watch. Taste, see and smell and hear and all those things. So basically, we're being cleansed of all the flesh. But we're also cleansed of the spirit. Now what's that? The spirit is your reasoning and affections and emotions and all those things. So, He's cleansing the whole bit of you, the body, soul, and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. In the meantime, you got a good clean vessel.

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

There's no room for gossip. There's no room for bad reports. There's no room for impurity. And with that, which is just forget it. Got to take care of it.

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure

## heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

What does it mean? A pure heart, one that's been cleansed? That's your mind, you're thinking.

**Hebrews 12:14** Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

So, we see those Positive thoughts, along with thoughts of courage and decisiveness, create within you an atmosphere of assurance, and steadfastness, which will bring forth circumstances of success, and freedom.

**Ephesians 3:11-12** According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: **12** In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

So, it's His faith. It gives us access; it gives us confidence. It's all in the mind.

**Hebrews 10: 35-36** Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

So, you see what's on the mind. That's only the starting point, Brother Branham said, the Christian, he's got a mental faith, but you've got to water it with the Holy Spirit. And then when you water it, it begins to blossom in your actions.

Hebrews 10:22-24 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised; 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Then Gentle and forgiving thoughts create an atmosphere of love and trust which solidify into protective and preservative circumstances and crystallize into circumstances which allow you to minister help and forgiveness to others, (See, if you are not forgiving here, you won't forgive in your actions.) which allows those affected to enter into an atmosphere of hope and reconciliation.

Why do you think Brother Branham was so much like Christ? He said live me a sermon, don't preach me one.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

In other words, none of us is perfect. We're all going to have our foopaws (a foopaw is an Irish slang for faux paw). Just forgive the person. Let it go. And that shows your willingness to that mercy. It shows your willingness to forsake all the bad stuff and turn your eyes on Christ.

**Colossians 3:12-14** Put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

That's the first thing you always have to think about. If not by the Grace of God, there go I. Therefore, who am I to say anything to this person?

If you keep sowing the same particular seed thoughts, be it good or bad, it cannot help but create an atmosphere around you which will also affect your character and the circumstances in which you live.

Now a garden is a place or a plot of ground that you specifically set aside for growing things that you like, whether for food or for the beauty of just looking at it, such as flowers and roses, etc. A garden is a place where you sow seeds, and you come to water and cultivate those seeds, because you have a purpose in mind.

And if we do not cultivate our garden, then other seeds that fall into our garden will compete with the specific thing we want to harvest. Therefore, we must cultivate the seeds which we want and root out those things we do not wish to come to harvest.

Now we don't go through all that work in taking care of a garden just for the sheer enjoyment of turning over soil & breaking rocks, if we did, well then prison would be fun. But we must have a **PURPOSE**.

A garden has to be plotted out, and there must be a **PLAN** in your mind as to how you would like to see your garden turn out.

And didn't Brother Branham say, Jesus is the Example Seed? He's the Example. He's a pattern. So, we've got a pattern for our garden, and it's Him.

If there is no plan, you will have an awful time trying to harvest what you sowed. Could you imagine planting a garden where you go out and grab a handful of carrot seeds and you just toss them up in the air, not really caring where they land? Try grabbing a bag of corn seeds and tossing them out onto the ground, just Willy nilly.

Then repeat the same process with watermelon seeds, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, peas, and whatever else you would like to harvest. I imagine the sowing might be easy, but come harvest time, you're going to have a real mess trying to sort out just what you sowed.

So, there's got to be rows. There's got to be a purpose. I plant certain things here and I plant maybe some flowers in between the Rows. Why? Because a certain type of flower keeps away animals [insects]. Then I plant something else here and I plant something else there.

And yet this is the way many of us go about our daily lives and especially our spiritual lives. I'm afraid it is.

Can you imagine someone trying to store up earthly treasures without a plan? And yet that is exactly what we do, with storing up Heavenly treasure.

Well, how about this? We plant every seed in a container first, instead of just throwing them in the air. Then, when they start to grow, we can identify what's what, and then we put those containers in rows.

**Matthew 6:19-20** therefore, Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break in and steal: **20** but layup treasure for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Many of us struggle because we have not learned this first principle of sowing and reaping. We too often look at the man who is wealthy and we say, "he's a crook and that is why he is wealthy". Now, that may be true in

part, but the reason that man is wealthy is because he has applied a principle of sowing and reaping which many of us are not willing to do. He had a plan to gain wealth and he was dedicated to that plan and so his whole life became structured around that plan, and therefore he reaped what he sowed.

I have no jealousy for one minute of those who have worked very hard for what they have. They deserve it. But I do feel sorry for them in the same way in which I feel sorry for the poor farmer who loses his crops to hail or tornado. Many of them, if not the majority of them who are very wealthy, have stored up their treasure in the wrong place because they'll only be able to enjoy what they have sown for a season. But they can't even take it with them.

Therefore, I want what will not become rusted, and moth-eaten. I want that which will truly stay with me all throughout Eternity. And Jesus told us if we "seek ye first the Kingdom of God, then all these things shall be added us." Now what things shall be added? Well, let's turn in our Bibles to find out.

Now, In **Matthew 6:24-27** I want you to notice we are told to *take no thought* concerning certain things. Now, He is not telling us that these things are not important to us, but that our thought pertaining to these things needs to be directed, not at those things, but at the Kingdom of God from whence cometh all good things.

In other words, Jesus is telling them that their focus needs to be on the right things.

This is the same principle we see in dealing with the poor in very backward countries. The people are starving to death, and we feel sorry for them, but if we just feed them, then they will always be dependent upon us. But if we teach them how to sow and reap, then they will learn how to provide for themselves.

That's one thing that we have done in the mission work. We've given out 22 different plots of land, some as big as eight acres, some as small as 3 1/2, and we gave them to 22 churches. And we basically said, we're giving you this land. It's up to you, as a pastor. You say, well, my people are very poor, and I don't have shoes for kids, and I can hardly afford food. And because they don't tithe, I said, first of all, do you have 30 men in your church? Oh

yeah, we have 30 men. And they don't have income. I said, well, OK, if you get 30 shovels, now you have a team. Now you can produce income for everybody. All right.

So, what we did was, we bought land, and we said to the pastor, make an agreement with the church, that each one gets a quarter acre. Then they can use it to harvest themselves vegetables of all manners. Have them bring 10% of those to the church. Now you can set your kids up, they can set up a stand and they've got a vegetable stand, and they can produce income from to 10% from each of the persons.

Now I never get calls ever. Not anymore. For I need shoes for my kids, I need education, I need this and that. You see, they've got an income. So, we taught them how to make an income. Therefore, what we are looking at, is, you got to teach them how to sow and reap. Then they learn how to provide for themselves.

Therefore, what we are looking at is having the right focus. He said, take no thought for these specific things. Take no thought with just the eating, or just the specific piece of clothing that you need but focus **on where** those things come from and then you will always have plenty. Learn how to sow and you shall also reap.

**2 Corinthians 7:7-1 0** Every man according as he purposed in his heart, so let him give, so let him sow; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Now I've never asked this church one time. Never for a missionary offering. I've never gotten up and I think one time we did have back when we were on Cloth Pike, we had a black man come in and he said he was on the road in his car and had popped tires and stuff.

So, I actually drove home, picked up the four tires in my car, because they fitted his car and I [took] him to the garage and we gave him. That was our love offering. Brother Branham said you shouldn't take up a love offering. We saw a stranger come in, because people then feel compelled, like he said have the man go outside and those that want to go over to him that can do that and those that don't have to do that.

This reminds me here of the man whose family had a poor crop, and they were facing a harsh winter.

They had just a bag of grain left over from the poor harvest and the children cried out to eat it. The father said, "No, for if we do then surely, we shall die. They made it through the winter, but it was a real struggle, but when the spring came forth the father planted his seeds, and they brought forth a bountiful harvest.

Now, Apostle Paul continues, [Amplified] And God who provides seed for the Sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your resources for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness and charity, and thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and your generosity as it is administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God.

In other words, the more God gives you and blesses you. The more you give, the more He blesses. It's just a continuous cycle.

And so, you see, we must have the proper focus and the proper plan if we are to bring forth out of the garden of our mind, a harvest of Eternal blessing. We are promised that God, who gave us the seed to begin with **will also multiply that seed** as we sow properly.

That's why, you know, you may have children like you do, where they attend school and you've gotten to know some of the parents. And so, if you were kind of a jerk, like many in this message are real jerks, and you went to those people and you said, well, you're Baptist, I don't believe like you and so therefore I'm going to have nothing to do with you, then you wouldn't have an opportunity at the white throne to see that person saved, because of something they did for you.

Some love that they showed you, some love they showed your children. You see people have loved Brother Branham or his children. He says if you can do anything for me, pray for my children. So many people that may not have made it otherwise will make it in, because they did good things to the Bride.

Therefore, it already has in it everything that we will ever need for a living and for bringing forth a character that is in His Image.

We see when Brother Branham preached on The Stature of a Perfect Man, he said, you'll add to your faith knowledge, add to your knowledge, virtue, and all these things. And so, people thought now I've got to get to the place where I have faith, then I'm going to work on temperance, then I'm going to work on patience, then I'm going to work on, because I don't have these things. No, he said. When you're born again, it's all in there. It just needs to come out,

[NIV] Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

We know the seed came forth from Him and therefore it already has in it everything that we will ever need for living and for bringing forth a Character that is in His Image.

**2 Peter 1: 2-4** *Grace and peace be multiplied* (How's it going to be multiplied) unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, The more you know about your Savior, the more you want to be like Him, and) **3** *According as His divine power,* (His Divine Word, because the Word of God is the power of God) **3** *According as His divine power, hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:* **4** *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these* ( Promises), *ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.* 

So, He's already given it. It's already there. It's already in His Word. You just have to water it. It's already in you. You love the word. You love the seeds. Just got to water.

**Isaiah 60:21** "Thy people shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified."

So, God planted us, and He said that which I began to work. I shall do what? Finish! So, we are the planting of the Lord.

Can you see God's purpose in His planting? **Isaiah 61:3** "that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.

Therefore, the purpose of being planted by God is to bring forth His Glory, which is His thoughts in an expressed form.

In **Ephesians 1: 2-5** We see that we were in Christ before the world was framed, therefore we are a seed, that was in Him. And are told here that while we were still in Him, we were "Blessed with all Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places in Christ." And then he goes on to tell us that in order to bring forth these seeds that were in Him, He had to have a plan.

In verse 5 we are told that He pre-planned for us to come forth to the adoption of children to Himself. And this is according to His Will or plan, which He further elucidates in verses 10-11 where he tells us that it will happen according to His Purpose (Plan).

Therefore, I hope you see the importance of having a purpose or plan for every seed thought that we want to bring forth to harvest. In order to reap we must not only sow, but we must learn how to sow, as well. Because you cannot sow just any which way and expect to reap a harvest that is orderly.

As I mentioned, just if you sowed carrots on top of celery on top of this and that, you get a mishmash of stuff.

**Isaiah 61:11** "For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord will cause righteousness to spring forth in the presence of all nations."

Now the garden is laid out with an order to it. As we see in **Genesis 1:11** everything will bring forth after its own kind, or nature. But even before we see God laying out this law of reproduction, He first brought together everything that was of like kind, and then the law of reproduction was given.

Notice in **Genesis 1:9-10** we see that everything was gathered together with like-kind before the law of reproduction was introduced into His Creation, in verse 11.

Therefore, if we are to be able to bring forth from the garden of our mind in the same way that God has brought forth from His own mind, we must also follow his Example. Therefore, we must have a purpose and plan, to the things which we wish to sow and harvest.

Our gardens must have an order for them if we expect to reap a good and profitable harvest. Otherwise, you will spend all of your time just trying to sort out what it is that you have in your garden to begin with. As long as our thoughts are without purpose, they are allowed to just drift aimlessly and will never bring forth any fruit.

Thoughts which have no purpose fall easily to the anxieties of life, and pleasure-seeking and other things which so easily rob you of victory of Peace and Grace and lead you to a life of weakness and self-pity.

In other words, you children, you want a certain item. I don't know what the item might be. Maybe a doll, maybe you know caps and guns or whatever. I don't have any clue.

But you do, because it's in your mind, that you want. Now you have got to put your garden together in your mind. That says okay, I need \$70.00 from what I desire, in my heart. How am I going to get it? Well now you set your mind to figuring out ways that you can make money and then you save that money, and you have your \$70.00. A man said to a child one time, he says, I'm going to give you a silver dollar.

And he said now you can spend it on this candy over here, or you can save it and you can buy this set of jacks that you really wanted. He left the choice up to the boy. Now if the boy was not smart, he spent it on candy or ice cream. When he heard this, the little bells going off.

Like me, when I was a child, my grandfather gave us the silver dollars every time we came to the house, and I spent it on the ice cream man. And those are 1868 silver dollars, worth a lot of money today, which I had no clue what they were worth. So, you see when you get that silver, when you get the gold, whatever you get from me, hand me downs, check the value.

Like one man gave an example to his daughter, it was her 18th birthday and he said I'm going to give you this car. Now the car was rusted. The car was old. The car was maybe 40 years old, and he said, Now I want you to go down, and you ask what the car dealer would give you for that car.

So, she came home, and she said, Dad, the car dealer only offered me \$100.00. So now, I want you to go down to a pawnbroker and ask him what he'll pay for that car. And he said, I'll give you \$1000. It's all rusty. It's no good. I'm going to do you a favor. She came home to her dad's and told the story. He said, now I want you to go down to the car club and ask anybody what this car is worth. So, she went down, she came home. She said, Dad, they're willing to buy it from me for \$100,000 because it's a vintage car. Sure, it's a little bit old, and needs a little work, but they see the capacity in it because it's worth it.

Now, the garden of your thinking, you see, you have to have a plan and you have to study that plan and find out different ways to make money. Now he could have made \$100 selling it right away. He could have made \$1000 selling it, but she went to the place, and they offered \$100,000 for the car. Now see, that was quite a nice 18-year-old birthday present. So, thoughts which have a purpose for easily to the anxieties of life.

In other words, the ice cream man is out there now, and I want ice cream now, and pleasure-seeking and other things which so easily rob you of your victory and peace and grace and lead you to a life of weakness and self-pity and without your silver dollar. Therefore, we need to have a purpose for our thoughts and once we have purposeful thinking, we should set out to accomplish what we purpose.

About 20 years ago I had a neighbor that my daughter was playing with his daughter. He was going through a divorce. He had 110 acres down the street. He wanted to impart 63, of those acres to me for only \$110,000, which was \$1800 apiece. I asked Brother Michal, because what year was it, 1997 something, that you were moving to here? No, you already moved here. And I said to Brother Michal, how would you like to go halves on it.

And he thought about it, and he didn't do it. So, I said, I have \$50,000 so I'm going to just pay off my own house. Instead of investing in the 63 acres. Now I went to the bank. I had told the president of the bank, because he we're good friends, Jerry.

And he said, listen, if you want to put in a driveway back there and you want to invest some money in there, or he says if you want to just invest in the acreage, I'll go in with you. And I thought I would have half the money right there.

In fact, I have all the financing available to just invest in this property of 63 acres. And I thought, I don't want to be unequal yoked with an unbeliever. So, I said, no thank you. And I decided to tell my friend I'm going to pass it on.

So, the next week he went to the county. He sold it for not 110,000 as he was going to sell it to me. He sold it for 289,000. He made like 179,000. I could have made that same 179,000 had I just bought it and then sold it to the county.

See, I didn't do the homework. I didn't lay out the plot. I didn't say, what is it really worth? Is it worth 110,000?

Is it really worth 110,000? Or is it really worth 289,000? So, I missed the mark. I can go through it many times. I've done that, and I've been a sucker to myself. But I learned how to be smarter. I learned how to plan and purpose.

Therefore, we need to have a purpose for our thoughts, and once we have purposeful thinking, we should set out to accomplish what we purpose.

In order to do this, our purpose should be that which brings together our thoughts with our actions, tying together our body, soul, and spirit into one energized being with one focus.

We should make this purpose our supreme duty, and we should devote ourselves to the fulfillment of this purpose, not allowing our thoughts to wander away into ephemeral fancies, longings, and imaginings.

In other words, some things that you really don't need, you don't need in your garden either. Focus on the battles you can win. Don't focus on the battles you can't win.

This is the Royal Road to self-control and true concentration of thought. And even if you fail again and again to accomplish your purpose, as you surely will until your weakness is overcome, the strength of character gained from this will be the real measure of success, and this will form a new starting point for future power and triumph.

Just look at Thomas Edison, for example, He tried nearly 10,000 times to invent a workable light bulb, and finally, he did it. But what if he had stopped after 9,999 tries? Edison might have been discouraged, at the end of each day, but every time he got back up, the [dis] just flew away.

Now I was reminded of a mistake I made a couple of weeks ago. I said when David had his Garner. I meant to say Joseph, but I said David. It was just a thought that was in my mind, but it was actually Joseph, his seeds, they came up and they planted them about 20 years ago. And those plants, those seeds actually they all took.

The word discourage comes from two words which means to loose your courage. Don't be discouraged, be brave, be thoughtful, and have a purpose in your heart that whatsoever you set your mind to do, so shall you finish.

After all, are we not made in our Father's image?
And is not He the Author and Finisher of our Faith? Did He not say, "*That which I have begun in you I will perform it even unto the end*"?
So don't come up short. Finish through with what you do.

And again, from Jehovah Jireh, he said, "When you begin to seek the flower bed of ease, you're on your road out. I like that old poem: Must I be carried home to heaven on a flower bed of ease, While others fought to win the prize, And sailed through bloody seas? No, I must fight, if I must reign, Increase my courage, Lord.

And again, another Poem, he told us goes like this, "A man of words and not of deed, Is like a garden full of weeds."

So there your garden is planted wrong. I don't like that. I like carrots. So, I'll just, yeah, I like cucumbers too. Yeah, I like watermelon. But when you start to harvest the thing, you're pulling watermelons and you're filling cucumbers and carrots and it's all just a mess and you're going to take forever to garden up, what was there.

And that is exactly what I have been trying to bring to us in these messages of the garden of the mind. What have we in our garden tonight, thoughts with Purpose or weeds?

Mighty Conqueror Standing some time ago, I was in the Westminster Abbey at London, England, and I seen the form of the poet that wrote the Psalm of Life, Longfellow, and I thought of his poem, Tell me not in mournful numbers, Life is just an empty dream! (Just eat, drink and be merry.) And the soul is dead that slumbers, And things are not what they seem. Life is real! And life is earnest! And the grave is not it's goal; Dust thou art, and to dust returnest. Was not spoken of the soul.

Lives of great men all remind us, that we can make our life sublime, With partings they have left behind us, Footprints on the sands of time. Footprints, that perhaps another, Sailing over life's solemn main, For forlong and shipwreck brother, Deeds shall take heart again. Let us be up then and doing, With a heart wherein we strive, Be not like dumb driven cattle, be a hero in this your life. .... and from [Go Wake Jesus] he said, Be not like dumb, driven cattle, have to be drove into anything. Let's believe, be a hero in the strife.

**Isaiah 58:11** "And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

People who have no central purpose in life, fall easy prey to petty anxieties, phobias, and cares of this life, and it leads to self-pitying, all of which are indications of weakness, which weaknesses lead, just as surely as deliberately planned sins, to failure, unhappiness, and loss.

In other words, people may complain about not having any friends, but they don't show themselves friendly.

People may complain about being ill or having this illness or that illness. When I was a young boy, we called them Cronk. It's a person who's chronically ill. Or you can say, I'm who I am by the grace of God.

I'll do things. I'll show up to your party. I'll show up to your house. I'll show up to your church. I'll show up wherever I'm needed. I want to be needed. I don't want to be excess baggage to you. I want to help you.

For weakness will not endure in a world where "the devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour."

Just as in nature, the wolf-pack usually looks for the weakest lamb, or the one straying from the flock, so too does the devil look for the weakest of the flock to devour.

Therefore, you should have a purpose in your heart, and you should set your sights on obtaining that purpose.

I am the Bride of Jesus Christ. I'll take no seconds. I am the Bride.

You should make your purpose the centralized focus of your being. And your purpose should reflect the season in which you live. Even God has a purpose to guide and direct the sum of His own thinking. For without purpose, our thoughts would only drift. When you have a purpose guiding your thoughts, you have a control tower of your thinking.

Ella. When you play on the school's volleyball team, you want to be the best server they ever had. So, you have to work at it. Every time you do, that takes over the control of your actions and speech as well.

Isaiah 14:24 "The Lord of Hosts hath sworn, saying, surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand."

Next, we must cultivate away any seeds that are not in our desired harvest. If we have weeds growing up, we must cut them down before they take over our garden. This must be done on a regular basis, for to fail to do so, will allow to grow and use up the nutrients reserved for the harvesting plants, and thus it will choke off the life of the harvest plant, preventing them from maturing.

Matt 13:22-23 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground (a tilled ground) is he that heareth the word, and understands it; which also bears fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Let's bow our heads in prayer.

Gracious Father, we've shown here the things that we need to do in our own

life, to make sure that all of our thinking is in line with Your Word. And where it isn't, we just root it out. And where it is, Lord, that we water it, so, that it brings forth some 60, some 30, even some 90. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.