



Tending Your Garden

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by Dennis Peacocke

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

- I. Let's go back to the Genesis (beginning)
 - A. God clearly showed us how to change the world.
 - 1. He set Adam and Eve in their garden (Gen. 2:15; 2 Cor. 10:13).
 - 2. He tutored them (Gen. 3:8).
 - 3. He said move out from here and bring completion ("komeo") to your larger garden (the world) (Gen. 1:26-28).
 - B. How are we going to change the world (eat the elephant)?
 - 1. One person; sphere of influence; one "garden" at a time.
 - 2. It's so simple the enemy's job is to try and make it complex.
 - 3. Our job is to see our garden and start cultivating it.
 - 4. We will "win" when enough believers see this and do this.
 - 5. This will be done by God's spirit; through God's word; out of God's people; through local churches and ministries; equipped by the Five-fold Ascension gift ministries.

- II. Let us now discuss some of the major issues pertaining to our gardens and how to see them and care for them (John 15:8, 16).
 - A. Who is in your garden?
 - 1. Yourself
 - 2. Your family
 - 3. Your spiritual relationships
 - 4. The people you regularly interface with (work, neighbors, etc.)
 - 5. Those you see God working with (John 5:17, 19; John 4:4-42)
 - B. What does God ask us to do with it?

1. See it (look hard and think about it!)
2. Pray for it; the borders of your ministry are the borders of your prayer
3. Cultivate it with word and deed
4. Use your gifts and tools (what God has given you) (Ex. 4:1)
5. Harvest it
6. Look for added size as you do (Luke 16:10-12)
7. Teach other believers to work their gardens

III. Let us now examine some of the hurdles and objections we encounter in caring for our gardens.

A. The natural condition of the garden is weeds, in a fallen world.

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. Let us now turn to four major objections we must overcome and teach others to overcome as they look to their gardens.

1. “I don’t believe I can change:” past failures; goals set and missed: (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. What 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 Cor. 7:10; 1 Sam. 24:16).
 - b. I’ve felt good before and didn’t change.
 - c. I changed, and then “changed back.”

C. Let us now briefly discuss 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 into 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. Heb. 5:11-14: What made you fall back?
 - b. Duet. 6:4-9: Surround yourself with appropriate reminders.
 - c. John 3:21: Revelation is married to practice if God is truly manifesting Himself
 - d. Phil. 3:17: Paul says, watch my life patterns.
 - e. Ex. 33:32; Prov. 6:20-23; 1 Cor. 9:25-27; Col. 2:5; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Peter 1:11; 1 John 1:6 & 3:10 among many.
- D. Here are five basic laws of change for “change-agents” we are currently teaching.
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.
- IV. Let us now discuss how we can help facilitate the change process in others as we come out of this weekend and go home to both recruit others and work on our own gardens.
- A. We must remove the objections to God using us (as already seen).
1. Deal with known disobedience.
 2. Deal with fear or a sense of unworthiness (you and I are unworthy!!).
 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 Cor. 10:13-18).
 - 1. We have seen this already.
 - 2. Prayer releases people.
 - C. We must be walking in a current “hungry” place to hear and see, by the Holy Spirit, in whom and where God is working.
 - 1. We must look for openings.
 - 2. We must act when we see them.
 - D. We must seek to ask people questions (Satan & Jesus) which engage them internally in an internal struggle or crisis.
 - 1. We must be “clean” so 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, so as to “wake people up!”
 - E. The goal of the internal conversation in a “crisis” is:
 - 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 is working here 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)
- V. In 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 of the above.
 - E. Go home and 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”

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

THINGS TO PRAY FOR:

- Their relationship with God
- Health, spirit, soul, body
- Physical & financial provision
- Relational life in their families
- Fruitfulness in their ministries
- Power in their prayer lives
- Spiritual growth and protection from evil or discouragement
- Living today in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Living today with a “renewed mind”

My current needs:

Spouse:

Children:

Parents:

Siblings:

Other relatives:

II. SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Pastoral care:

Leadership team (names):

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

Extended spiritual relationships (names):

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 8. |
| 2. | 9. |
| 3. | 10. |
| 4. | 11. |
| 5. | 12. |
| 6. | 13. |
| 7. | 14. |

III. OTHERS IN MY "GARDEN"

At work:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

In my neighborhood:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

People or situations I carry special burdens for:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

IV. KEY SCRIPTURES I AM WORKING ON IN MY LIFE

V. ISSUES GOD IS WORKING ON WITH ME