



Joyful Living Newsletter

Encouraging, Equipping and Empowering Women to Joyful Biblical Living Through Christ

Between Friends
by Joy Martin

New Beginnings: Part 2!

What new things would you like to see in your life? This is what I had to do for new growth in my garden:

First, I had to pull up some weeds that were smothering my flowers and bushes. Isn't it strange that these just spring up uninvited, with no effort on our part? Likewise, spiritual "weeds" creep into our lives and need to be pulled out. A lot of the weeds this year were vine-like--they had deep roots that sent out creepers everywhere. If you just pull the creepers without getting the root, then shortly they will just come again to suffocate your beautiful blooms - so check your attitudes!

Read more from Joy about eradicating these weeds or "respectable sins" in your life

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Second, we had to enrich the soil by spreading plant food to nourish new growth. Are you enriching your life by getting some fresh food from your Bible reading, from reading a good book, from listening to Christian radio or music? All soil has to be refreshed or it loses the nutrients necessary for growth. "As newborn babies, desire the milk of the word so that you may grow by it." (I Peter 2:2) Ask God to give you a craving for His Word, just like a little baby eagerly seeks for mommy's milk.

Next, we had to get rid of the insects that were chewing the leaves and flowers. I wonder if these bugs and beetles could be compared to the little irritations of life that distract us from pursuing God and achieving new goals. Are you letting the small "cares of life" rob you of spiritual growth and fruitfulness?

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Finally, we have to remember that real growth comes as we allow the Holy Spirit freedom to work in our lives, opening our hands to Him in surrender, trusting Him to do what we can't do. Don't make God have to pry your fingers lose from earthly treasures which may be idols. Begin every morning by holding up empty hands to the Lord and see how He completes the work which He has begun in you.

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