

Friday - March 5

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9 (NRSV)

My mother was an avid gardener, as was her mother. But where my grand-mother enjoyed growing flowers and vegetables, my mother enjoyed landscaping and yard work. While growing up, I could always find my mom outside in her yard trying to make the grass greener, the shrubs healthier, always learning more and more about the best ways to make the yard look its best, and even winning “Yard of the Month” twice. She always shared her gardening insights with me.

I also enjoy spending time working in the yard. Having lived mostly in parsonages until 10 years ago, I haven’t had the opportunity to hone my skills - so let’s just say I don’t have a green thumb. I have a running battle trying to keep the grass growing and green in certain areas of our yard. Over the past few years, I’ve tried the easiest ways possible to regrow the grass - mainly just throwing seed out there and hoping it grows. I know from the lessons my mother taught me that this is not the proper way to see to a healthy lawn. So this year, I made a concentrated effort to fix these suffering areas of our lawn. It took multiple attempts over the spring, summer and fall. With each attempt, I remembered another step to help the seed take hold in the yard. In the fall, I finally had all the steps in place - preparing the ground, adding fresh soil, using the appropriate seed, covering the seed with hay mulch and water. Thick grass grew! Now winter is here, even though dormant, the lawn looks healthy.

As I contemplate this experience, I realize the lessons God has shared with us prepare the way for growth. There’s no easy way, but if we follow what we’ve learned through faith, good things will result. The seed is planted and hope will grow!

Kelly

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for teaching us how to grow in faith. Amen.