

Cultivating

Spiritual Connections

- Genesis 1:28. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and **subdue** it...”
- Genesis 2:5. “... and there was no man to **work** (till) the ground,”
- Genesis 2:15. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work** (till) it and **keep** it.
- What do these verses mean in the context of a perfect world, where God saw everything and said that it was very good? There was something more that needed to be done? Yes, and it was intentional.
- We were created in God’s image. Just as God in His sphere created out of chaos, He made us, in our sphere, to do the same.
 - “In our labor we are to be workers together with God. He gives us the earth and its treasures; but we must adapt them to our use and comfort. He causes the trees to grow; but we prepare the timber and build the house. He has hidden in the earth the gold and silver, the iron and coal; but it is only through toil that we can obtain them.
 - Show that, while God has created and constantly controls all things, He has endowed us with a power not wholly unlike His. To us has been given a degree of control over the forces of nature. As God called forth the earth in its beauty out of chaos, so we can bring order and beauty out of confusion. And though all things are now marred with evil, yet in our completed work we feel a joy akin to His, when, looking on the fair earth, He pronounced it “very good.” Education 214, 215
- Both before and after the fall, the work that God gave us to do was the same: To organize and manage the garden and the natural world for good fruit - literally and figuratively.
- This work requires relationships (intimacy), labor, creativity and imagination (choice).
- So, what happened in the fall? Just as Man rebelled against God’s dominion, so now the creation is in rebellion against Man’s dominion. We get a test of our own medicine.
- To our labor of subduing, tilling and keeping were added pain, sweat, thorns and thistles. These are God’s will for us now. For a purpose. To train us. To discipline us.
- Hebrews 12:11. “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”
- So, as we work to subdue our garden, training and disciplining it, bringing it into submission to our dominion for the purpose of fruit, so God is working to subdue our hearts, training and disciplining us and bringing us into submission to His dominion for the purpose of fruit, the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Practical Application - Cultivation

- Weed Control. Cultivation vs Weeding.
- Prevent weeds seeding. “One year’s seeding is seven years weeding”. The weed seed “bank”.
- The best time to deal with weeds: the “White Thread Stage”
- The best time to cultivate is on a hot sunny day. Don’t cultivate on wet days or just before a rain. Also, try to avoid stepping on weeds that have just been cultivated. Many weeds will reroot.

- Other Weed Control Strategies
 - Stale seedbed.
 - Mulching. Wood chips, hay or straw, plastic
 - Silage Tarps
 - Landscape fabric
- Cultivation Tools
 - Hoe
 - Colinear Hoe
 - Stirrup Hoe
 - Wheel Hoe
- Important Tool Features
 - Keep your blades sharp
 - When buying tools, look for ones that are sturdy, but light weight. About 2 lb for a hoe.