

Living Like a Weed

“Do you think it is a weed?”

“I don’t know what it is.”

“Should I pull it up?”

“Nooooo. Let’s let it grow and see if it blooms.”

So we left the weed-looking thing in the ground and over the summer it grew and grew and grew. It was at least 12 feet tall by the time we left for vacation in September. When we returned, it had started to put on blooms and we finally recognized it as a Maximilian Sunflower.

Our delight changed to wonder as the weedy stem developed a blanket of over 50 brilliant blossoms. The long wait was over. These hardy plants typically paint the roadsides with a wash of gold, waving in the breeze to announce the advent of fall. But this one was ours and it was **glorious!**

The Lord had been reminding me of His abundant provision the previous few months. As He drew my eyes to incredible vistas and blazing flowers, placed in my hands plump tasty fruits or tantalized me with the smell of freshly baked bread He kept saying, “I prepared all of this for you. Receive it. Enjoy!”

But I could have missed the abundant blessing.

John 10:10 tells us that Jesus came so that we might have life to the full, but that Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. How does Satan gain a foothold in our lives to distract us from the abundance the Lord desires to share with us? Somehow he manages to **twist our thinking** about abundance. You know the list. For some it is TV and texting, ball teams and boats, family and friends, careers or church—all good things unless we allow them to become our idols. For others it might be poverty or war, illness or abuse, legalistic religion or violence.

We are in good company. Even the Israelites missed the majesty of God when he was on the mountain having a little talk with Moses. He was right there! Surely there was thunder and lightening, the mountain ablaze with His glory. But they were so self-focused that they missed the whole thing. They convinced Aaron to make them a golden-calf-god and missed His abundance completely!

They needed a God who knew their potential and desired a relationship with them beyond the rules and regulations; a God who had designed them as individuals with yearnings and gifts that only He could bring to full bloom. But,

they were living like weeds. They were deceived by Satan and chose a pitiful, man-made cow, instead.

We may see ourselves as a weed because of things we have experienced in life. But as we allow God to infuse us with life, we begin to blossom—radiantly. Max Lucado talks about our need to be filled up with God's love before it can overflow into the lives of others in his book, [A Love Worth Giving](#). His point is that we have to develop and deepen our own relationship with the Lord before we have enough of HIS love to share with others. Otherwise we work out of a self-centered need to do something to make **us** feel important or valuable.

In the weed metaphor, the weed is totally dependent on God's provision of rain, sunshine and nutrients in order for it to meet its full potential—God's plan for a glorious fall gift to us. As His child, you have a choice. Will you succumb to Satan's deception about the meaning of abundance, or will you choose, first and foremost, a relationship with Jesus so that you can become all He created you to be?

Are you willing to stop living like a weed?