

Fresh Start in Life

I love being outside this time of year. Everyone's lawn has deep, lush grass that is a healthy, dark green color. It is not anything we have done. To get us started off right God soaked our lawns with plenty of spring rain. Colorful spring flowers accent our yard. A simple cutting of the lawn makes the external appearance of our home look outstanding. Then, it is up to us. If we manicure, fertilize and water our lawn it will better be able to withstand the hot, dry summers. New grass seed is often applied to fill in the entire lawn and repair bare spots. If we add further care by getting down on our hands and knees to remove the weeds we will have an unblemished appearance to our yard.

The same is true of our personal life. God endows each of us with a body and soul. What we do with it is up to us. How well do we take care of our bodies? Do we regularly exercise? Do we nourish it with healthy foods? Do we resist the temptations that abuse our health? And how about our soul? Do we remove the weeds – sins -- that could choke out the good in our life? Do we add new seeds of knowledge to fill in areas of our faith that need strengthening? Do we get down on our hands and knees in prayer, asking for forgiveness, so we can be unblemished in God's eyes?



We know that the hot days of summer are coming. Without watering, our lawns will wither and die. By mid-July, many lawns in our neighborhood will have dried up and be parched brown in color. Our yard will no longer look the same as it was at the beginning of spring. It takes effort to take this piece of God's creation and keep it alive and vibrant. It doesn't happen on its own.

Like the hot, dry summer, life gives us many challenges that threaten the vitality of our faith. It takes effort on our part to keep it fresh and healthy.

Sometimes life gets away from us and we lose the momentum of faith. Just as each spring gives us the new opportunity to develop a healthy lawn, you can reaffirm your commitment to faith, and God will give you a fresh start in your relationship with Him. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

Scripture Verse: *They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23).*

Question: When you feel yourself slipping away from God what do you do to get closer to Him again?

Prayer: Most gracious, Heavenly Father. We thank you for giving us the capability of doing something with our lives. We know there are times when we slip and find ourselves distant from you. Please give us a fresh start to be renewed in our faith. Amen.