



## The Basics of Life

By Tammy Borden ©

I have learned many lessons in life from nature. Some of them are obvious... don't poke a stick in a hornet's nest... If you're walking down a trail and you see a bear... turn around and go the other way.

Even the bible talks about some of these lessons from nature. In Matthew 13 Jesus tells the story of scattering the seed.

Some fell on rocky soil and withered.

Some fell among thorns and was choked out.

Some fell on good soil and grew and produced crops.

Jesus wasn't just sharing horticultural wisdom; He was talking about life. He was talking about how we can live a life that matters. As a gardener, I have come to recognize that so many of the basics of gardening also apply to our lives, and when applied, they can help us grow and flourish. But when ignored, they can lead to struggles and weakness. So, today I want to share with you some of those basic principles that we can do to help us live a bountiful and flourishing life.

1. *Keep it watered.* The first basic principal of gardening is to keep plants watered and keep them fed. What happens when you don't water a plant? It wilts, and eventually will die. Like all living things, a plant cannot survive without water. The same is true for our lives. Physically, we cannot survive without water... Spiritually, we cannot survive without living water, the living water of Christ's love. If we're not constantly nourishing ourselves with his living water, His word, Spirit, his people speaking into our lives, it's like a plant without water. We'll eventually wither and die spiritually.

2. *Keep it weeded.* Personally, I don't mind watering plants. The part that I struggle with is weeding. I'll be in my garden one day enjoying the flowers and I'll notice a small weed and ignore it. The next day it seems like it's a weed from The Little Shop of Horrors. Pulling weeds to me just seems to take more effort. But when you get weeds when they're small, it's a lot easier, and you save yourself a lot of hard work and effort. Sometimes weeds in our lives start out small and subtle like a grudge against someone. But left unchecked it can become an obsession of hatred. Or what about a habit that can slowly grow into an uncontrollable addiction? Our weeds in life need to be treated the same as weeds in a garden. If you get them when they're small you'll save yourself a lot of heartache. And it's important to get the whole root or it may come back stronger than before.

3. *Share the bounty.* Many of us in Christian circles have heard the phrase about having our lives produce fruit. It's a good time to ask you, "What is the purpose of fruit?" When I've asked this question before I often get the response, "To eat it." But that is not the purpose. In our culture we think fruit exists so that we can consume it, as though fruit is for us. We're a consumerist society. The purpose of fruit is to reproduce. It's meant to continue the cycle of life that has gone on before it. Life is meant to be shared. Jesus tells of how a properly tended crop will produce a harvest 30, 60, even 100 times as much as was planted.

But a fruit cannot be produced unless we begin with water, nourishment and weeding. When that happens a harvest is produced and impacts others around you.

That's the kind of life I want – one of impact, one that matters.