

“What Size Is Your Brush?”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Have you ever noticed that there are a large variety of paint brushes? Each sized brush has its own purpose. Large flat brushes can be used for painting large flat surfaces, small pointed brushes are for painting small detailed designs. A “broad-brush” job is one that requires little attention paid to detail. Basically just a few strokes of brown and white paint slapped on the canvas make a house instead of the added pain-staking detail of a red front door and black shutters put beside the four-paned front windows through which one can see the green Christmas tree and the fireplace with a roaring fire in it.

Looking at our spiritual lives, what kind of brush are we using to “paint” the “paintings” God has commissioned us to do? Now, I understand there are times when “broad-brushing” is appropriate, and other times when detail work is needed. We as Christians need to make sure we are “broad-brushing” the appropriate things, and giving focused attention appropriately.

Many people today are wringing their hands as they listen to the news and repeat terrible occurrences over and over. They have their fine-pointed brush working overtime on the cares and worries of this world while they spend a few quick moments and use a very broad brush on God and his greatness. Daily, as we get our “paint brushes” out, let us remember to paint in detail only the things on which our Heavenly Father has instructed us to focus. Let’s remember these wise words of scripture as we go through our days:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Phil. 4:8 (NIV)

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...with The Sojourner

“Flowers Bloom” (Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 6:25-34



What Flowers Do
Many people enjoy flowers. This can be evidenced every spring by a visit to retail stores as they receive their stock of greenhouse flowering plants. People flock to purchase beautiful blooming plants to adorn their flower planters, window boxes, and flower beds to erase the ravages of winter. This makes the days more colorful as the longer brighter days of spring encourage new life.

What do flowers do beyond pleasing us with their color and vast variety of shapes and fragrances? Flowers produce seeds. Their seeds replicate their own uniqueness. Most people buy them for their beauty and then allow them to succumb to the onslaught of fall and winter only to be replaced next spring by new plants for their blooms. The cycle then starts all over again.

There is, however, a minority of people who value

something from the flower more than the transitory beauty it gives. This much smaller group of people, while enjoying the flowers, value the seeds even more!

Flowers Produce Seeds

If no one valued the seeds, which come from the seed factories we call flowers, where would next year’s flower beds be?

The desiring of only the factory without the product would be most disappointing, indeed.

Jesus Taught

Jesus taught of flowers in our scripture from Matthew 6:25-34. The context of his teaching on flowers was very interesting and telling.

Jesus was speaking of care (worry^[1], annoyance, harass, being harried, plagued, pestered, teased) in a person’s life. You see, everything has

Notes:
[1] Worry—
1. a. to harass by tearing, biting, or snapping especially at the throat **b.** to shake or pull at with teeth **c.** to touch or disturb repeatedly **2.** to torment; persistent or nagging **3.** to afflict with mental distress or agitation : make anxious

Scripture:

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

Do Not Worry

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life^[a]?

²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes

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Or single cubit to his height

the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

The Kingdom of God

³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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seeds and seeds reproduce an abundance of what each seed is. God provides everything necessary for the flower. The flower does what it does because it is in sync with God's Kingdom. The flower has no free will, so it just does without rebelling against God's program. Why, because the flower has no reason to worry since it lives without the knowledge of good and evil. The flower does not worry about what could go wrong, it simply does correctly what it was created to do.

Mankind for the Kingdom

Mankind was created to function in God's Kingdom where there is no worry. When mankind steps into the world of not enough, fear, disease, the knowledge of good and evil, mankind begins to mutate and break-down. Why? Because mankind was created to function in the presence of the glory of God. Let God do what God does with the seeker of his kingdom and therefore his presence. Let God bless you even more than the flowers of the field—SEEK and BELIEVE!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

