

This is the Day...Thursday

October 14, 2021

A Flash in the Pan

“Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the Word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.”

(Luke 8:13)

As a child, our house in Gastonia was a modest, two-bedroom home. Dad converted the carport into a nice den to provide more living space, but it was still a small house for six people. What the house did not offer in square footage it made up for in the size of the yard. From the eyes of a child, our backyard seemed to go on for miles. As a young teenager the yard seemed even larger as I was given the task of mowing the grass each week. Even though it was a large lot, Dad always took pride in keeping the yard and landscaping looking nice and manicured. Each spring he would plant flowers, replace bushes, and set down beds of mulch. As I did the mowing, I would often notice some obvious bare spots in the lawn. I always thought it would be nice to have some grass in those sparse areas but one thing I never saw Dad do was plant grass. He said the yard was just too big for that, but if I wanted to do it that was up to me.

I took that as a challenge and purchased some grass seed. I took my shovel, broke up the hard clay and rocky Gaston County soil and spread the grass seed on the bare areas. For the first few days I watered the areas meticulously. I was amazed that in less than two weeks, I began seeing grass grow in those bare areas. I watched the thin, tender new grass begin to thicken and grow taller. But over the next few weeks, I neglected the grass. I did not water or tend to it. I was busy doing other things and I just left it alone to grow. Once the grass seemed to be tall and established, I ran the mower over the new grass to even out the lawn. Two days after mowing, the new, beautiful green grass was dead. I don't mean just wilted. I mean really dead. It was as though the hard bare dirt had swallowed up the tender new grass. When I told Dad what had happened, he responded in his typical way by saying, “Yep, that grass was just a flash in the pan. It takes time for roots to grow!”

We all have the tendency to be a “flash in the pan” at times. We decide to make some changes in our lives, sort of like those useless New Year's resolutions. We resolve to get fit. We resolve to read our Bible more. We resolve to lose weight. We resolve to pray more. And we start out with good intentions and make quite a flash for a period of time. But unfortunately, it does not take long for us to lose our focus and fall back into our old habits. The same is true in our relationship with the Lord. We may walk the aisle and make decisions in the emotion of the moment. But it is unfortunate when we do not follow that initial flash with meticulous watering and care.

On this day God has given you, do not neglect the tender nature of your relationship with the Lord. It is a relationship that requires your constant time and attention. Remember, it takes time for those roots to grow. And without those roots, it will be just another flash in the pan.