

## **Hoeing the garden**

One of the great joys in my life is steaming or fryin up some fresh veggies from my garden and having the satisfaction of eating what I have grown myself. If you have ever grown a vegetable garden, you know that this does not happen easily. You really have to nurture the garden to get it to produce.

Recently, after returning from a 10-day trip, I was welcomed by a garden of well overgrown weeds. Oh, it was still producing fine vegetables and the plants looked healthy enough, but left alone the weeds would have taken over. I could not rest until the weeds were gone, so I immediately got the hoe after them. I find this in my Christian life as well. If I ever take a vacation from nurturing my walk with God, i.e. (spending time in His word, praying, serving, and selflessness) weeds of sin will take over. Oh, I can still look fine (we learn to do that as Christians) and I can even still be fruitful in my ministries, but eventually, if I did not confront these areas, sin would take over and my Christian life would die. I have to daily not rest, take up my hoe and combat the thing that want's to consume my life, sin.

Luke 9:23

"If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me."