

Women & More
A 'call' and 'walk' Experience

Unless a Seed Falls and Dies

Worksheet 23: April 14, 2016—*influence*

First comes the seed, and unless that seed falls and dies—planted in soil—there will be no new flower or tree or fruit: no new growth in the garden of God. The soil-saturated seed produces the flower that will embrace and scatter more seed, because life to God and for God will spring from the spiritual death of His saints—every one.

**“That holds the knife,
that cuts and breaks
with tenderest touch,
That thou, whose life has
borne some fruit
May now bear much.”**

—Anne Johnson Flint

“Nothing about our last victory guarantees our next;
and nothing about our last defeat guarantees our next.”

—Beth Moore

Anyone can count the seeds in an apple,
but only God can count the apples in a seed!

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Ezekiel 34:26 (God to Israel)

**“Look up today, O parched plant, and open thy leaves and flowers
for a heavenly watering.”**

—Rev. Charles Spurgeon

John 15:1-2 (cuts off and prunes)

Romans 6:10-11 “*The death he (Jesus) died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*”

¹¹“*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

2 Corinthians 9:10

2 Timothy 2:11

Scripture to Memorize:

John 12:24 “*Unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it brings forth much fruit.*”

Prayer Requests and Praises:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. **2 Corinthians 12:10** *“This is why, for Christ’s sake I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”* To determine why Paul said **“this is why”** we’ll need to read verse 9a, and write below what God said—fill in the blanks.

Verse 9a *“But he (God) said to me, ‘ _____
for you, for my power is made _____.”*

2. Quoting Mrs. Charles E. Cowman in *Streams in the Desert*: “Plenty out of pain, life out of death: is it not the law of the kingdom?” Describe the meaning you find in her words.

3. **PONDER: *Whose Garden?***

I own a garden, I plant and I hoe,
But I have a partner I think you might know.
 He mixes the seasons and ripens my seeds.
 For His own reasons He adds a few weeds.
 He gives me sunshine and showers and soil,
 Sparks my ambition and ardor to toil,
 Smiles at my pride in the things I have grown;
 And when I speak of the garden “I” own.

—Unknown

Recommended Reading:

How To Work for Christ, R. A. Torrey
The Journey, Billy Graham

How have we been crucified with Christ?

—Life Application Bible NIV—Tyndale House Publishers

The Apostle Paul knows that life is obtained through death; we trust in the God who loved us and died for us so that we might die to sin and live for him.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”—Galatians 2:20.

Legally, God looks at us as if we had died with Christ. Because our sins died with him, we are no longer condemned. Colossians 2:13-15 *“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave us all our sins**, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; **he took it away, nailing it to the cross.** ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*

Relationally, we have become one with Christ, and his experiences are ours. Our Christian life began when, in unity with him, we died to our old life. Romans 6:5-11 *“If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that **our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again, death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹“In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**”*

In our daily life, we must regularly crucify sinful desires that keep us from following Christ. This too is a kind of dying with him. Luke 9:23-25 *“Then he said to them all: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?’”*

► **And yet the focus of Christianity is not dying, but living.** Because we have been crucified with Christ, we have also been raised with him (**Romans 6:5**). Legally, we have been reconciled with God (**2 Corinthians 5:19**) and are free to grow into Christ’s likeness (**Romans 8:29**). And in our daily life, we have Christ’s resurrection power as we continue to fight sin (**Ephesians 1:19-20**). We are no longer alone for Christ lives in us—he is our power for living and our hope for the future (**Colossians 1:27**).

Isaiah's Commission

Isaiah 6:1-8 (NIV)

*“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the **Lord** seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:*

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory.’

⁴“At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵“‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.’

⁶“Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’

*⁸“Then I heard the voice of the **Lord** saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’*

*“And I said, ‘**Here am I. Send me!**’”*

