

and look over the crop to see if any bad seeds are growing. Should he perceive any wild mustard or other noxious growth he will carefully pull it up so that he may have a clean harvest. We likewise must watch lest some evil habit manifest itself in our character. When we see such we should go direct to the Saviour and have Him remove the sin with His wounded hand. "And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin."

The farmer cannot prevent these weeds from getting into his crops. The birds will carry the seeds into his field. The wind will carry the Canada thistle in its feathery enclosure till it drops on the soft ground. We cannot stop evil thoughts from entering our minds, no more than we can the birds from flying over our heads, but as we can hinder them from making nests in our hair so we can prevent ourselves from meditating upon evil thoughts till they grow into the sins of action. What does the farmer do now? He just leaves it alone. He cannot make his grain grow any more than you can make yourselves grow in grace. He just brings the ingredients of growth together and leaves the result with God. The bright days and dark nights are sent. The strong and balmy winds beat upon the grain, and it grows and grows till it bends beneath the breeze, and his heart is cheered with the rich crop.

God is the great Husbandman. When our hearts are regenerated by His Holy Spirit, the word of God received into them, and prayerfully meditated upon, He sends the bright days and the dark nights, the strong winds and the gentle showers and the Christ-life grows in us, and God our Father looking down is delighted with our Christian walk. He sees of the travail of His soul and is satisfied.