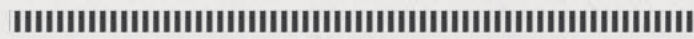


# BECOMING A VESSEL OF HONOUR



**P**aper-thorns, no one bothers to plant them, yet they grow quickly and spreads very fast. The reality is paper-thorns are a pain, if you have tried to relax on a calling green grass and only to find the grass filled with weeds you know what I am talking about.

One morning as I was pulling these tiny yet painful things from my backyard, I learned how to recognise the leaf of a paper thorn, I learned that when the leaf is young it has no thorns, so it makes it difficult to see that this leaf is coming with trouble, naturally the leaf grows quickly and spreads fast.

## # 2 Timothy 2:21

"If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honourable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work." (NLT)

## # 1 Timothy 6:11

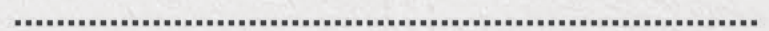
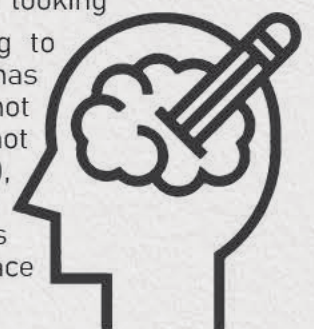
"But you, O man of God, flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness."

This got me thinking, the nature of a man is sinful but God has given us power to overcome. No man desires sin yet sin grows in us without we even thinking about it, just like paper thorn no one really plants them in your garden, naturally they grow.

We live in a society where everything is urgent, there is no time to stop and think, we learn to microwave everything and in the process, we produce junk. It is evident in our attitude, we become impatient, easily angered and irritated, the pressure of life is becoming too much.

This very thing prevents us from entering the rest of God, relaxing in His presence, always looking

for the next big thing, forgetting to enjoy the current that the Lord has provided. Remember if we do not have the time for people, we do not have time for God (think about that), and when we do not enjoy people is mostly a sign that there is turmoil in us, we are not at peace with ourselves.



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**The question is how is your garden, are you a pleasant person to be around or generally people avoid being around you?**

In rooting out the weeds, you have a garden that not only is good looking but a garden to relax on. People begin to enjoy your garden (life), and find rest, comfort in you, people come to relax, they come for renewal; however if the weeds are not rooted out what will people find, bad attitude, bitterness, anger, apathy etc. Just as paper-thorns, sin is natural to us humans, the bible teaches that flesh is born of flesh and desires its own – Gal 5:19–21, Romans 8:8. It is the nature of man to be sinful, which is why we need Jesus the one who rids us of all sin.

Recognising the Leaf, it is important as children of God to introspect, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal your true self to yourself. Recognise the sin that so easily creeps into your heart, by doing so you ready yourself for God to use you for His good work and His own pleasure – you become that vessel of honour.

It is time to put that sin (bad attitude, ill temper, anger, bitterness, unforgiveness) under the blood of Jesus – only He takes away the sin of man.

Just like the paper-thorns when it is young you hardly see the thorns, sin disguises itself well yet its end is pain and steals your peace. The bible teaches us that we ought to be aware of Satan's schemes – 2 Corinthians 2:11.



## THE GOAL – BECOMING A VESSEL OF HONOUR



The Lord desires you to be His special utensil for special use, desire to be that special vessel. Create space in your life to be a garden of honour that God designed you to be, may He lead people your way knowing and rest assuredly that they will return refreshed with a different outlook.

From your inner most being should flow rivers of living waters, let your words bring hope, become a solution rather a problem, it all begins with you leading your own life weeding out paper-thorns in your garden. Be approachable, be relational, be open, be positive always-embracing faith, hope and love.

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About the Author:

Thembi Koko is a child of God, a wife, a mother of 2 kids and a minister of the word, passionate about raising up women and girls in the knowledge of God.