

# *Central Pentecostal Ministries*

## From the Pulpit...

### *Thorns of Life*

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The majority of this message was preached at the 2015 Minister's Convention in Beaumont, TX.

***"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee;"***

Genesis 3:18

These few and yet magnified words regarding **thorns** and **thistles** are as relevant today as ever. We are still living in a fallen society because Adam and Eve, in disobeying God, let in the curse of sin. No matter our status in Christianity, in our call or task, until we get to the new home we call Heaven, **the thorns and thistles will be a part of the terrain**. We must be reminded that we are still in the world, yet not of it. No doubt, we have heard from voices who do not understand the dilemma of this current climate, saying, "just rebuke it and all will be well". If we are not careful we begin to believe that thorns and thistles exist because of our lack of faith and authority to rebuke. That simply is not in line with what the Spirit of God is attempting to say to us.

Proverbs 20:27 tells us that "***the spirit of man is the candle of the lord***". Thus this environment of thorns and thistles brings about a required soberness,

sensitivity and tenderness that has to be sought after by the Word and the Spirit of God. **To ignore where we live is to ignore what we need**. Failure to see the current environment eventually makes faith and prayer an option. When the conditions get too comfortable we tend to lean on our cleverness. The modern Christianity of today has to know the power and presence of darkness, or the requirement to be light is of little importance. We are pilgrims and strangers, we are not home.

All of us have known the superficial and shallow piercings of the thorns of life. Though somewhat painful and uncomfortable, we simply flinch, keep our eyes on Jesus and keep going. However, if we understand that "***the spirit of man is the candle of the lord***" then we must realize it is Satan's desire to drive these thorns deeper than the shallow layers of our skin and into the earthen vessel. In this final

hour there is a crystal clear sense of Satan hammering to push the thorns beyond the normal and get it into the spirit of us all, so that “*the candle of the Lord*” is now marred, dimmed and negatively affected.

The Word of God brings a broader, more definitive reality to these thorns as He speaks to us in II Samuel 23:6-7, “*Sons of Belial... as thorns*”. Now the Spirit of God is indicating that men who are not in right standing with God, who are worshipers of Belial, have now become thorns that Satan hopes to use to disrupt “*the candle of the Lord*”. He says to us, in order to contend with these thorns we “*must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear*”. With these descriptive words that the Holy Spirit conveys to us, we accept the violent and necessary preparations in order to not allow the thorns of men to disrupt “*the candle of the Lord*” within us. Proverbs 18:14, “*The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?*” Why is a wounded spirit so difficult to bear? It is because of what is lost or injured in the earthen vessel that is so overwhelming. Scripture teaches us clearly that we have a treasure in the earthen vessel. The Hebrew signifies “treasure” as anything collected together, provisions, and so on. Matthew 2:11 says to us that the wise men “*opened their treasures*”,

*treasures for Christ!* For the thorns of life to **penetrate** the vessel is often times to totally disrupt and rearrange what God desires to do in and through us. The Spirit that was “*the candle of the Lord*” has now been negatively affected in a thousand ways. In essence, there has been a catastrophic injury.

II Corinthians 12:7 is a familiar conversation we read between the Apostle Paul and Christ. Here Paul says, “*There was given to me a thorn in the flesh*”. Let us please exert ourselves to hear something: **THE THORN WAS IN THE FLESH, NOT THE SPIRIT!** The works of the precious Holy Ghost would never do anything to negatively affect the Spirit of man, which is “*the candle of the Lord*”. However, Satan is not satisfied with there being a “*thorn in the flesh*”. He works with all his satanic forces to press the thorns and thistles beyond the shallow portions into the core bosom of who we are as believers.

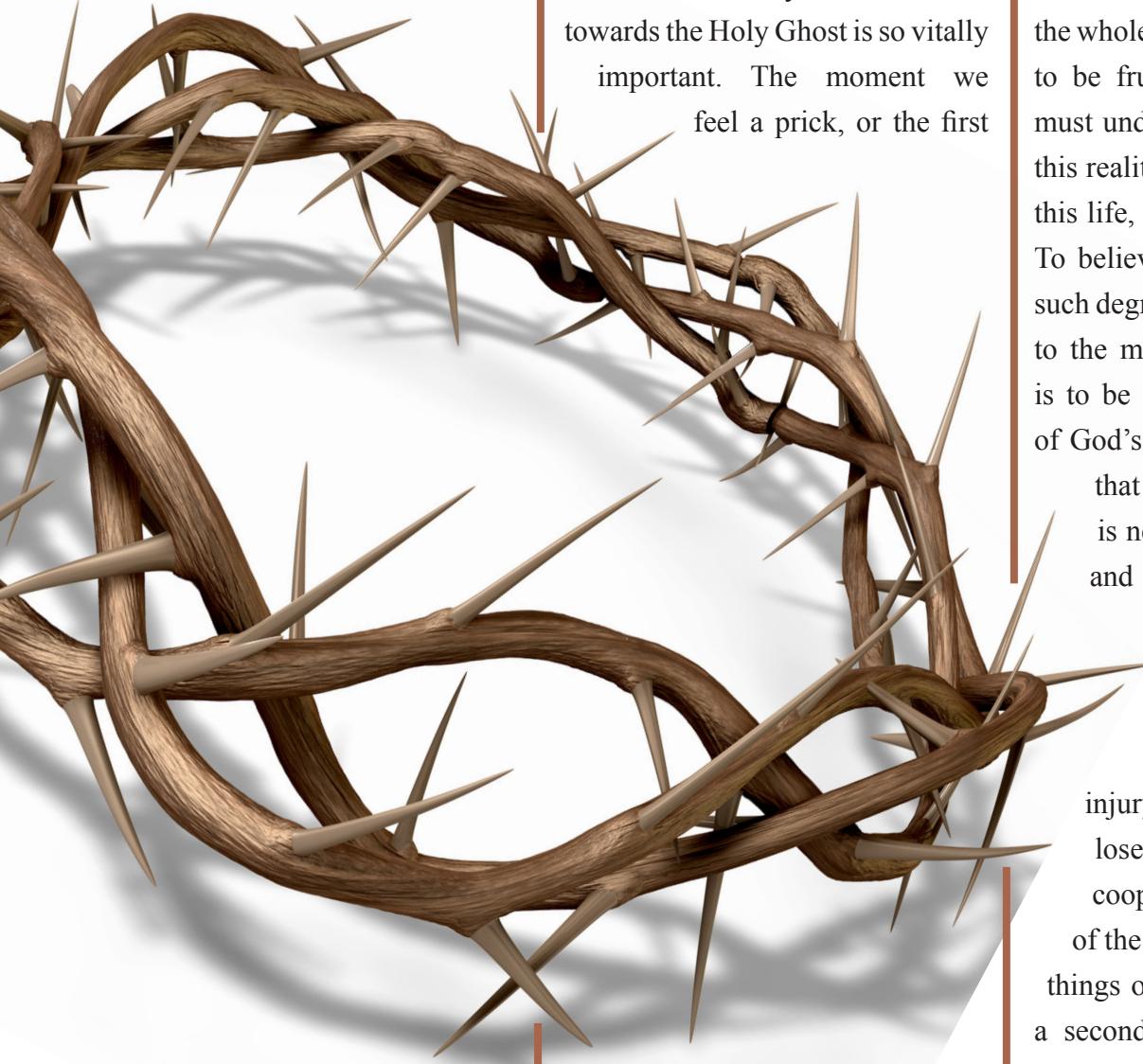
This negative effect of our environment on humans, and especially Christians, must be considered in the context of its intent. The shield of faith is in a man’s hand because he knows there are fiery darts. Ignoring the thorns and the cry to have our feet shod with the preparation with the gospel (Ephesians 6:15) will bring

injury to the “*spirit of man*” and thus the treasure.

The thorns affecting the feet and legs of Adam and Eve and their descendants have now moved or progressed into the apostle days as “*thorn in the flesh*”. Thorns which started as a part of the landscape with purpose, climbs to the head to alter the mind and its thoughts.

Now, we must look at the life of Jesus Christ (our example), as He is ending His walk in the flesh here on earth. Matthew 27:29, “*And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head*”. The Spirit of God would have us to hear the **progression** of a thorn-filled environment. The enemy’s desire is to use it to totally disrupt the Spirit of God in every man and mar the treasure, whatever it is, within us. Many of us will never again be what has God called us to be, because the original intent has now been warped or injured. The thorn has now moved its way to the vessel **and now rests upon the mind of Christ**, the example for us all. Yes, the crown of thorns was to be a symbol of mockery and yet for the hearer it is the intent to affect His very thoughts and penetrate to such degree that the purpose for **HIS**

LIFE might be altered or short-circuited. It was the crowd who said come down and save yourself. For the thorns to go past the outer perimeters of the flesh and pierce the brain (mind) of the vessel could have altered the fullness of the plan



of God. So it is with us, in that the brain is divided up into various departments or lobes. Once a particular part of the brain has been significantly injured, something in the remaining part of the body is now dealing with a malfuction. The Bible says, (Psalms 34:8) "*O taste*

*and see that the Lord is good*". If the thorns of this life have affected our thinking and pierced the core of who we are, now the very ability to taste is in jeopardy, and what we once considered glorious and grand is now silent and numb. This is where sensitivity and tenderness towards the Holy Ghost is so vitally important. The moment we feel a prick, or the first

sensation of pain, we must readjust or respond correctly. We must not allow it to carry on and do the damage that thorns desire to do.

To understand the above, we must consider our walk with

God and the greater intent of thorns in this last day's climate. Not because of blatant outward sins that could be easily stated, but because somewhere a thorn went deeper than God desired. It had such an effect on the vessel and the treasures within the vessel that now the whole of its future and its ability to be fruitful is held at bay. We must understand and acknowledge this reality of thorns and thistles in this life, as pilgrims and strangers. To believe that we can elevate to such degree that this does not apply to the modern Pentecostal church is to be greatly naive to the truth of God's Word. Let us understand that a healing of great degree is needed in order to carry on and fulfill the original Will of God for our lives.

I have seen some that have undergone this awesome, turbulent injury and watched them lose a sweet spirit and a cooperative attitude. The joy of the Lord and the desire of the things of God moved, at least, to a secondary position, when they once were primary. I've seen those who stood on the forefront of this battlefield recoil and step to the shadows because of an injury that ought to have been healed by the power of God. Philippians 4:8 talks about what we ought to "***think on***", but Satan knows if he can ever press a thorn deep enough

into our thoughts he can alter everything that we are as Christians, assuming we can continue on with such an injury. The thorns of life are real. They do not randomly choose their target. Every child of God is susceptible, and somewhere has picked up at least a superficial thorn. This message is to acknowledge that the thorns were as real in the New Testament as they

were in the beginning of book of Genesis. My prayer is that everyone who can hear the sensitivity of the Holy Ghost will hear a cry again to be tender and sensitive, so that at the first sign of penetration we can respond and carry on with the fullness of God within our vessel of clay, our earthen vessel.

**In the name of Jesus be healed. In the name of Jesus be restored to what you were before the thorns of this life changed your very thoughts, attitude and spirit.**



***Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost***

The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

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