

PIL

by Carolyn Webb

The other day my husband and I were browsing through the gardening section of the home improvement store. We came upon a product called Preen® that promises to keep your garden weed-free. The product is marketed with the very appealing phrase: Preen works so you don't have to®. My husband suggested that perhaps this would be a wise purchase for us since I really don't get around to weeding as often as I should. A weed-free garden without all the work sure does sound wonderful.



While I pondered the pros and cons of the purchase, my mind started to wander to; wouldn't it be great to have PIL (Perfect Ideal Life)? PIL: a product that could be sprinkled on my life to prevent all those annoying problems of life would be fantastic! Just apply PIL and your guaranteed no more sickness, no more sadness, and no more frustrations – the ideal, perfect life every day. Sounds wonderful!

Then I got back to the fine print of the Preen® product. If you use Preen® you can't start anything from seed directly in your garden. Preen® can't tell the difference between a weed you don't want and a wild flower that you might find desirable. I take great delight in some of the surprises that I find growing in my garden in the spring, and I do tend to let a lot of my annual flowers go to seed specifically so I don't have to plant them next year.

So maybe Preen® isn't right for me, but that PIL still sounds like a great idea. But maybe I better read the fine print on that, too. The Bible has a few things to say about all those difficult times of life:

Deut 8:5 - Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

Psalm 66:10 - For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my [sisters], whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:12 - Blessed is the [woman] who perseveres under trial, because when [she] has stood the test, [she] will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

So I have to ask myself: If I removed all of the problems from my life, how would my character develop? Would I grow spiritually? How would I know happiness if I didn't know sorrow? I have to admit that all those difficult times are what cause growth. I guess I can do without PIL.



Season: Easter Spring/Pentecost

Videos: 8. Having Peace in Your Life
17. How do you get out of the Muck?

Devotions: 15. Control.
45. Where's My Rose Garden?
119. The Master Gardener
145. Drink Up!
180. This May Hurt A Little

Prayer: 41. Lord, you know how I am; I want a quick fix. I want you...

Super Girl: 10. "When peace, like a river, attendeth my..."

Scripture References: Hebrews 12:6, 7; Revelation 3:19; Deuteronomy 4:36; Deuteronomy 8:6;
2 Samuel 7:14; Psalm 94:12; Proverbs 3:12; Proverbs 13:24; Ecclesiastes 7:14

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