



July 21, 2026

Growing in Grace
Matthew 13:24–30

If you've ever pulled weeds in a garden, you know how frustrating they can be. Just when you think you've cleared them all away, another one appears. Some weeds even look surprisingly similar to the plants you are trying to grow.

Jesus tells a story about a farmer whose field was planted with good seed. But during the night, an enemy scattered weeds among the wheat. When the workers noticed them, they wanted to pull the weeds out immediately.

The farmer surprised them by saying, "No. Let them both grow together until the harvest."

At first, that seems like strange advice. Wouldn't it be better to get rid of the weeds right away?

Jesus reminds us that life is not always as simple as separating the good from the bad. Every one of us carries both strengths and struggles. We have moments of kindness and moments we wish we could take back. Yet God does not give up on us. God is patient. God continues to care for us, nurture us, and give us time to grow.

That is wonderful news, especially as we grow older. We may notice things we cannot do anymore. We may carry regrets from years gone by. We may wish parts of our lives had turned out

differently. But Jesus tells us that God sees the whole field—not just the weeds. God sees the wheat growing, too. God sees faith that has endured, love that has been shared, prayers that have been whispered, and countless acts of kindness that have blessed others.

Through Jesus Christ, we are not defined by our failures. We are defined by God's grace. Day by day, God continues the work of growing goodness, hope, and love within us.

So today, rest in this promise: God is patient with you because God loves you. The Gardener who planted you has not abandoned you. He is still tending your life with mercy and care.

Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for being patient with us. When we see only our weaknesses, help us remember your grace. Continue to grow faith, hope, and love in our hearts. Help us trust that you are always at work in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ's Love,
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