Weeding Your Spiritual Garden

When is the best time to pull weeds in your garden?

[After a rain because they come up easy.]

What happens when you try to pull up weeds in dry soil?

[They break off and then regrow again.]

So, what about the spiritual weeds in our souls? When is the best time to get rid of sin?

1. **Recognizing our sin**

   A. Finger pointing

   Rom 2:1-3

   You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. **2** Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. **3** So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

   [The Garden of Eden – Adam → Eve → Serpent]

   B. God sees all things

   Heb 4:12-13

   For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **13** Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

   C. Examine ourselves

   1 Co 11:31-32 AMP

   31 For if we searchingly examined ourselves [detecting our shortcomings and recognizing our own condition], we should not be judged *and* penalty decreed [by the divine judgment].

   32 But when we [fall short and] are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined *and* chastened, so that we may not [finally] be condemned [to eternal punishment along] with the world.

2. Repentance

A. Contrite heart

Isa 57:15

For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Contrite: overcome with sorrow for sin

A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Ps 51: 1-5

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
5 Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

B. Asking for a right spirit

Ps 51: 10-12

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.