



# Thursday Thought

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## “Aggressive and obnoxious!”

Thursday, March 16, 2017

**Verse for the week: Hebrews 12:1 (AMP) “stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us...”**

Smilax, also known as catbriar, brambles, horse briar, and roundleaf greenbriar, is an *aggressive, obnoxious, entangling vine*. This vine has invaded most of the eastern United States. In my research of this plant I found that, in the past, roundleaf greenbriar was called “the devil’s wrapping yarn” because of its thorns and tendrils. So why did I research this weed? Because there was a large area at the edge of our woods where it was invading. It endangered the trees, destroyed the view, and became a hideaway for varmints (a troublesome wild animal) that might want to eat our chickens. The vines have now been cut at the base, pulled out of the trees, and burned (after they tripped me up several times and gave me several scratches.). I’m sure that these vines haven’t always been there. It probably started out as one little seed through some birds dropping. Habits start small but can build into something that is controlling and destructive. **Song of Songs 2:15 (NIV)** says, “**Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards...**” Often, we will make excuses for our habits (and sins) by saying it will never happen to us, or it’s just a little habit (sin). The problem is that just like that little Smilax seed that developed into a massive vine that can grow 33 feet tall, so will our “little” habits and sins do that as well. When the destruction begins to take place because of our habits and sins, we have a tendency to blame others, and sometimes even God. The Bible say’s in **James 1:14-15 (NLT)** that basically we have no one to blame but ourselves. “**Temptation comes from our own desires...**” and when it isn’t dealt with, it will lead to death.

Breaking these habits and overcoming sin can be a very challenging process and take some time. The first thing we need to do is determine that we are going to overcome it. Then we need to get to work and seek help (absolutely seek help from God, and then trusted friends). Finally we need to continually guard against allowing it to take a hold again. We can get victory over aggressive, obnoxious, entangling habits and sin with the help of God, determination, and consistency.

**Question to ask yourself:** What habit or sin have you been making an excuse for that you need to overcome? Turn to God and others and begin the work at overcoming it today before it leads to greater destruction.

**Disclaimer** - For those concerned about the destruction of this vine because of the food that it provides for the birds, I have several bird feeders that provide even more.