

Cracks
by Bob Bekins
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On my morning walk I noticed that if you focus beyond the wooden planks of a fence, and if you walk fast enough, and if you ignore the fence, you can see into the yard beyond. It takes a little eye mind coordination to concentrate on something which is farther away than the thing right in front of you.

People are like this composite of fence and yard most of the time. Once in awhile you meet someone that is who they appear to be but most are not that way. The fence builders have status, or reputation, or a job, or a neighborhood condition that in their opinion needs protection. The real "who" that they are sits in the backyard safely hidden behind the fence. That psychological fence can be everything from bluster to out-and-out lies, the way they dress, the cars they drive, or introversion. Piercing that protection can ruin a friendship if the protector doesn't know the observation is coming or doesn't want it. A glimpse into their reality, particularly during times of great stress or trial can become a blessing to them.

Now here is the thing, you can find out something and take action, without their ever knowing that you know. When your heart sees a past trouble that seems never to go away you can find a way to bring joy to them and help them along. If you learn of a current misery, just a kind compliment can change the course of their muddy river. An invite to a meal out, an invite to a ball game or a baby shower, a casserole of "I made too much chili, would you like some?" A chat over the back fence, offering to watch over their home while they travel to care for some relation, and more.

And during all of this, as with a kind heart we probe for how we can be of assistance, God himself who sits above it all, looks straight down into the backyard of their life and helps direct not only what we see, but what we do. And, often you don't need to look into the backyard of their mind to see from the slope of their shoulders that a little human kindness is needed. The details are trivial but what you do for them can be important.

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