

## 05-31-2024 Lessons from the Berry Patch #8 Nitrile Gloves

Son, you've only got two hands and two sets of fingers. Protect them. Wear those gloves. R. H. "Dave" Davenport

In over 50 years of working around heavy machinery, I managed to keep all my fingers, and my hands still work. Quite a few times, I escaped injury to my hands because I was wearing good work gloves. Gloves are important.

So this is a new item in my Berry Patch gear that my brother Dennis showed me. I just started using them this year. You can get them at auto parts stores, hardware stores or you can also order them online. These are the thicker, 9-mil-thick gloves. The thinner ones don't hold up very well.

If you are a berry picker, you know that even those small thorns on the berry vines can scratch your hands and make you itch. These gloves keep that from happening. They are also thin enough that they feel very natural while plucking those little gems off of the vine. If you've ever been carefully removing a berry from the midst of the vine and dropped it because a thorn dug into your hand and startled you, these are the answer. These are a major upgrade for any berry picker. They make your time in the berry patch much more peaceful.

More peaceful... Reminds me of what we read in [1 Thessalonians chapter 4](#):

<sup>11</sup> Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. <sup>12</sup> Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others. <sup>NLT</sup>

The keys to living a quiet and peaceful life:

1. Mind your own business
2. Work with your hands

Mind my own business? That makes a peaceful life? You mean sticking my nose in other people's business, passing around the latest gossip, picking a fight on social media, stirring up trouble in my neighborhood, school or church isn't the way to a peaceful life? Nope.

How to counteract these busybody activities? DO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE! Hang up the phone, turn off the TV, shut down the computer, get a job, wash the car, plant a garden, mow the yard...

Proverbs 16 says it this way:

<sup>27</sup>Idle hands are the devil's workshop; idle lips are his mouthpiece.

<sup>28</sup>An evil man sows strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

<sup>29</sup>Wickedness loves company—and leads others into sin.<sup>TLB</sup>

Let's look at verse 1 Thessalonians 4:12 again:

<sup>12</sup>Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.<sup>NLT</sup>

Notice that first phrase: "Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live." Did you get that? Living that way is a good witness to unbelievers. Too many times our actions speak louder than our words. Ralph Waldo Emerson put it this way:

'Who you are speaks so loudly I can't hear what you're saying.'

Once we learn to live lives of peacefulness we will understand the meaning of Psalm 16:8:

I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken....

Keep your hands doing righteous things and see how your life becomes peaceful.



Protect your hands from “thorns” in The Berry Patch.