

EVERYDAY LIFE

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

"God planted a garden . . . there He put the man He had formed." Genesis 2:8 NKJV

"God is a gardener, and He works in the soil of your everyday life."

My thoughts continue today about the **"Gardener."**

"God planted a garden." What do you envision when you read those words? I picture my stepfather a few years ago, in his vegetable garden carefully tilling and fertilizing the soil, preparing the planting beds, and then gently placing each seed exactly where it should be in straight rows marked with what had been planted there - then continuing to weed and water week after week, and battle the blight or bugs that would steal the harvest.

Can you picture Almighty God - maybe in bib overalls and a broad straw hat - down on his knees in the rich soil of a garden, carefully planting seeds in orderly rows? **God is a gardener, and His work is in the soil of your everyday life.** *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more."* John 15:1-3 NLT.

Planting requires ample patience. *"Dear brothers and sisters, you must be patient . . . consider the farmers who eagerly look for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They patiently wait for the precious harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient."* James 5:7-8 NLT. Different seeds are for different seasons. They require sufficient time before their first growth appears. God has planted seeds for different seasons of your life. Just because you can't see the seeds doesn't mean they haven't been planted. Be patient; God is.

Planting presupposes expectation. It is not for nothing; it is for something that one plants. Have you ever planted something - a tree, shrub, flowers, or vegetables? Why did you do that? Planting takes work, and time, and patience. Here's why anyone plants. *"For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope."* 1 Corinthians 9:10-11 NKJV. God has great hope for what He has planted in you. He relishes the day He and others will enjoy the fruit of His efforts on your behalf.

What is God the Gardener's expectation of you, and aren't you glad that God is patient with you? Is the daily fruit of your life the product of the seeds that God has sown there, reflecting His life and nature, or from some other's sowing? See Matthew 13:24-30 NKJV. Make no mistake. God planted good seed and has anticipation of the good that will come forth. *"For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."* Isaiah 61:11 NKJV.

Here's what God expects. *"How blessed is the man . . . his delight is in the law of the Lord . . . He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; in whatever he does, he prospers . . . those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God . . . They shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Lord is upright."* See Psalm 1:1-6 NAS/ 92:13-15 NKJV.

My prayer is for you to be good soil, receptive to the Gardener's touch and intent.

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