

God's Garden

By R.T. Nusbaum

Did you know that God has a garden? First Corinthians chapter three verse nine talks about this garden. In the King James version of the Bible we are called God's husbandry. This word has a variety of definitions such as: cultivated field or a field. The Amplified version of the Bible also uses the word, "garden." In the Song of Solomon, chapter four, verse twelve, we find the word garden being used to describe the Shulamite woman. This woman is a type of the Church. The "garden" of the Lord is His Church!

We Are A Garden

Where is this garden found? We, as His garden are found in His heart. He is constantly working on us down here to bring us into this image found in His heart. He works on us like a man would on a garden. He has an order in which He sets about to do this work just as there is an order in relation to seasons of planting, plowing, etc. Certain things are only planted in certain seasons and to everything there is a time and a season. However, if we are not aware of such things and have entered into a relationship with the Husbandman, then we will just randomly choose subjects to work on or give ourselves unto. For example, we are presented certain subjects in seminars, etc. and immediately set out to bring them about in our personal lives. But it is the Husbandman that tends our garden and it is not the responsibility of the plants to care for the plants. And, even if it is the proper season, it is useless to plant in unprepared ground. But the Lord can be trusted if we will come under His care. He takes great care in preparing our hearts to receive the seed which He plants in us!

All gardens are founded on one thing – Seed. Mark chapter four and verse fourteen tells us that the sower sows the WORD! Our physical bodies were made from the dust of the ground. We know that, if we are to have a garden, we must plant seeds in the ground. We plant natural seeds such as wheat, corn, cotton, or other crops in the ground of the earth. Just as natural seed must be buried beneath the natural earth, so must His words (seed) be planted deep within us. Mark 4:14 says, "The sower sows the WORD!" We know by this that what the Lord plants in us (we are His garden) is His view of things, known as the Word of God. That produces life while man's teaching produces religious fervor or religious converts.

The weeds are old concepts of Him and ourselves that must be removed. His work involves plowing, fertilizing, planting, and watering and pest control. But if you "clear" your ground, (mind), without planting seeds into that cleared ground, then weeds will pop up everywhere. In Genesis 3:18 we are told that "thorns and thistles" will be competing for room on your cleared earth. We must keep our fields clean of weeds, or they will choke the life out of our seeds but we do this by replacing them with His seeds (His view). Weeds rob the earth of the necessary nutrients needed to grow as good crop.

Guard your garden ! Be careful what you sow for, if we plant we will surely harvest. Galatians 6:7, "whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." If you sow corn, you will reap corn, if you sow wheat, you will definitely reap wheat. So be diligent to sow His view and His Word.

The Garden And Fruit

As the garden of God, we are to be fruit-bearers. In John chapter fifteen Jesus said, " I am the true vine, you are the branches." In the natural, the vine, or tree, finds its' expression through the branches. True fruit is a manifestation of the Vine through the branch and into the earth. This means that we truly discover the meaning of fruit, not based on certain specific deeds but that which comes through us from the Vine as Source. This is seen in the fact that the fruit contains the seed of the Vine for the branch has no seed. When we do things according to the Lord there will always be seed involved!

Psalm One tells us we are like a tree. This tree brings forth His fruit "in His season." Certain fruit is not always in season. In Galatians 6:9 we are told "be not weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." From these two scriptures we see that there is a season to bear fruit and a season when the Lord is simply "working the ground" in order to plant more seed. We should not expect to bring forth fruit at every minute. In fact, our emphasis should not be on fruit bearing for that is not our responsibility. Sure, we and others have a part in this but we are not the Source.

There are those who plant and those who water but, God alone gives the increase (I Cor. 3:6-7). Plant and water all you will, but do not try to produce the fruit. Only God gives the increase! There are those whom the Lord has sent into your life with the responsibility to plant or to water. Receive from them but know that Jesus is the Lord of the harvest. ***