

Daily Devotional, April 28, 2020 Showers of Blessing

This has been a very wet spring thus far. There have not been many days when I have been able to tend to yardwork since I have been busy with other tasks and study. But on days that I have been able to make time, it has been raining or too wet out. Fortunately, we had a nice break in the weather this past Sunday, and I was able to spend the sunny day getting most of my vegetable seeds in the ground. I love gardening. It has a spiritual feel to it, watching tall or long vining plants developing from the tiniest of seeds, and digging my fingers into the gummy black soil. You become one with it.

Today it is raining again rather heavily, and it almost seems like we have seen more than our share of rain. Yet, as dreary as it may look, I am grateful, for I can already see the results of new growth that are the results of past labors.

The bulbs in the ground are sending out their vivid, sweet-smelling flowers. Varied Hosta shoots form round spikes protruding from the soil. Buds form on recently barren branches, as birds are finding their mate to build nests and start their form of new life again, raising their glad melodies of joy to the heavens. ***“Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. ... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither spin nor weave ... Matthew 6:26a, 28b***

Jesus then goes on in Matthew to tell us not to be anxious about anything, food or drink or what to wear, as he cares for you and me. What an awesome promise this is. Knowing that Jesus is with us and cares for us, we want to pass it on, to our family, children, friends and neighbors as well.

The subject of rain is a major part of all this growth, and it parallels our spiritual growth. This is revealed in the following Bible passage : ***“Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.” Deuteronomy 32:1-4***

Rain is a gift from God and brings life to the earth. Similarly, God’s teaching and words bring growth into our lives. Today as I watch the rain fall steadily on the grass and the gardens in our front yard I have the picture of how God also brings teaching and support into our lives, like the spring rain, and from it our spiritual lives are nurtured. Rather than a dreary nuisance, let us wait on them as showers of blessing.

Prayer: God of the rains, dwell in me, and let your presence make me fruitful. Fill me with Your and provision. Water my life abundantly to soften all of the hard and broken areas and nurture it with new growth. Bless me with generosity and fullness, that I might be a blessing to others, and in light of these blessings, may I shout and sing for joy for Your faithfulness to me. Ever in Christ, Amen.