

Daily Devotional, June 8, 2020 My Life as God's Garden

Believe it or not, Spring is nearing its end. The birds are filling the trees and nibbling on gardens. The shrubs and trees are in full bloom and beginning to produce their firstfruits, and the call of the garden can be heard, "feed me, weed me, water me!".

I am not the greatest gardener in the world, but I do pretty well with most of my plants, as long as the bugs, the birds and critters stay away. When the creatures of nature overwhelm my garden, I usually experience frustration. Two years ago, the evening before I harvested my small bed of corn, a family of racoons harvested them for me. In one night, they were mostly all gone. I found chewed up husks lying on the ground and several more dangling from the stalks mostly chewed through. I didn't get to harvest my early cucumbers last year either, as either rabbits, but more likely, birds kept chewing on the first leaves on each plant. I was persistently re-seeding the entire spring and early summer until they found other delectable to munch on. There are days when I swear I should plant nothing but hot peppers. But then Laura would have nothing to eat.

Gardens require a lot of attention and constant care if they are to bear fruit. The gardener must first turn over the soil, add compost and fertilize the soil. Next it needs constant watering of the plants, if the rains don't come. Before the gardener even plants, much planning goes into the decisions of where each of the plants are to be placed. Each one must also be planted at the right depth and with adequate spacing between plants. A good gardener then visits the garden daily to take care of the many needs of the plants. The gardener must pay attention to the state of the plants to discover pest activity, fungus and other diseases early on. The gardener must spot threats and rid the garden of them before they destroy the fruit of his labor.

The garden must be continually weeded and watered during the heat of summer. The plants must be given adequate nourishment during the growing season. The fruit and vegetables need to be checked in order to be picked at the right time. A garden without a prudent gardener will not remain healthy.

Does the Earth have a diligent gardener who visits the Earth and takes care of its trees and plants? Who waters the Earth? Who designed the garden and provides the grain and seeds for the trees and plants that produce such their great abundance? Here is our answer: ¹ ***"Praise awaits you, our God,*** ⁹ ***You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.*** ¹⁰ ***You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.*** ¹¹ ***You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance."*** *Psalm 65:9–11 (NIV),*

Here we discover some of the activities that God performs as the Earth's Master Gardener. God visits His garden, and gives the Earth grain, seed, nutrients, sunshine and water. From time to time, God does some weeding as well, reducing the destructive things that jeopardize the garden. God keeps aware of our lives and conditions.

Have you ever thought about your life as God's garden? Paul talks about Christians as God's field, as God's garden. ⁸ ***The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.*** ⁹ ***For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. God uses ministers to plant seeds in our life and water the seeds, but God is the one who gives life."*** *1 Corinthians 3:8-9 (NIV)* God expects each of our lives to produce fruit that will give praise to Him who is the great gardener of our souls.

What is God growing in you, as His garden? Do you know that God interacts with you daily and checks in to see how things are evolving? God plants and waters the things He wants to grow to produce a bountiful harvest in you. God weeds our lives of things that are destructive or fruitless and prunes us so that we will produce much fruit.

As you care for your garden this summer, why not let God speak to you about the garden in your heart and what God desires to grow and produce in and through your life? Ask God to show you how your life can produce much fruit for the benefit of many and to bring God the glory.

Prayer: Cultivate joy, Holy Spirit, make my heart into your garden. Dig deeply, dig boldly, and dig freely. I resolve to put nothing in the way of Your cultivation. Weed and prune my heart as You desire. Water and cultivate my soul as You desire. Tend my heart as You please. Make my life fruitful and weed free. Amen.