

may 3

how does your garden grow

"the Lord God planted a garden eastward in eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed." gen 2:8

people, that's where it all began; in a garden planted by God. and there He placed His most prized creation, man created in His image and woman to be his helpmate. we were instructed to tend and keep the garden, but alas, the weeds of sin prevailed and took over the garden.

but God is still a gardener. was He not mistaken for one upon His resurrection, or unwittingly was His true nature being divined? in His love for us, He made a way for us to become His new garden. just look at the spiritual life and one can see all the metaphors of gardening prevailing.

read matthew 13 or mark 4 or luke 8 - they are all descriptive of gardening terms - where to plant, conditions affecting the planting and the bountiful harvest one might expect from a "good" planting. but planting alone is not enough. the young seedlings must be watered and nourished to mature and produce.

a bountiful production is the whole purpose of a planting. otherwise it might as well be counted as another weed in the garden. "every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." john 15:2

one can see little except gardening metaphors when reading the scriptures. Jesus even allegorizes His self as a vine and us as the branches. He was the seed that died to produce a bountiful harvest; we who believe are that harvest. the thing about fruit though, it may be consumed altogether, or some seeds of the fruit may be harvested that they also might produce fruit again.

is that not the way it is in our lives also? some of us just take and take and never even give a thought to bearing fruit of our own. then there are those blessed few who are willing to die that their life might have a bountiful harvest, even as our Lords.

speaking in the natural, i myself have planted a mini garden this year. and yes, i am looking forward to a harvest. i usually have flowers planted but was led to have a little garden to view the growth outside the door of my limited world view. it's been quite exciting thus far to see the seeds planted to begin to spring forth.

speaking in the spiritual, i also seek to sow a seed in your lives that fruit may abound to your account as well as mine, that both our lives might obtain a greater purpose. o Lord, prune as You must. nourish us with the bread of life and water with the water of the word. allow an escape from the weeds and thorns of sin so that we might flourish and in so doing, produce a harvest You will satisfy in. even as our lives are seed, given us by You, may we give it back to You as seed - the be all and end all of everything.

i expect to see a harvest from my planting and effort (in both areas). should we ask God to expect less than we do? "sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you." hos 10:12

"then God said, 'let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth'; and it was so. and the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. and God saw that it was good." gen 1:11-12 it was good indeed!