

Lessons from the Flowers

Consider the lilies, how they grow. They neither toil or spin. I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But, if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, you of little faith. (Matthew 6:28-30 NRSV).

Spring flowers and plants are blooming, each with its own characteristics. They grow in different media, require varying amounts of water, sun, or shade, have different names – some of which are very descriptive (Forget-me-nots; baby breath; sweet peas; sun flowers), different colors, scents (lilies, gardenias, hyacinth, roses), or no scent, require various levels of care, bloom and vary with the seasons, and need their own space.

Cut flowers or new cutting from a plant have different characteristics. A bouquet of cut flowers is colorful and may have a wonderful scent but does not last long since the stems have lost their connection to the main plant. Initially, a new cutting from a plant has no roots but, after weeks or months of care and nourishing, it can develop roots and grow into a healthy plant.

Water is essential to life. Without it, flowers and plants become dry, wilt, and die. They need constant attention. In John 4:13-14 Jesus said to the woman at the well; “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.”

Many of our members, families, and friends have recently been uprooted through the need to shelter at home without personal contact with loved ones, death of a loved one, decreased hours or loss of a job, cancelled school, inadequate food, or other changes. Life has changed and each of us has the opportunity to provide support and spiritual nourishment through care and prayer until new roots and growth are experienced.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 states: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: ... a time to plant and a time to uproot” (New International Version). During this time of being uprooted, God gives us the gift of flowers and plants in their season to assure us that He is in charge.

There is a Greek proverb that states: “The garden of kindness never fades.” Each of us serves as a gardener who helps to provide what is necessary for seeds to grow and plants to flourish in each of our lives, recognizing that it is God who provides the ultimate ability to prosper and grow and reflect God’s glory.

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