



GRASS DEVOTIONAL

ISAIAH 40:6-8

“A voice says, ‘Cry!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

EXPERIENCE

If I were a cow, the sight of a lush field of green grass would compel me to find a way to get to that field, especially in late summer when fields are often dry. Grass represents nourishment and a full stomach for all pasture animals. Passing by farm fields where rolls of mown grass dot the landscape is a familiar site as farmers finish stocking up for the winter months. The smell of a freshly mown lawn in September is another reminder that summer is almost over. The dewy soft grass in the early morning feels refreshing on my bare feet. In just a few short weeks it will be frost, not dew, that will greet my feet in the early morning. The color of green grass is such a bright and happy color, a vibrant reminder of life to the full.

CONTEMPLATION

The shepherd David recognized that green grass was connected to fullness of life when he wrote in Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.” God is a gracious and good provider for his people. A green pasture represents a place of rest, refreshment, and sustenance. It is not too difficult to think of moments this past summer when I experienced rest, refreshment, and sustenance from the Lord’s hand. Perhaps the best example is a shared summer picnic with good friends. Sitting in the grass eating watermelon and having a spitting contest with my son to see who can spit the seeds the farthest—now that’s refreshing! Yet, I can also recall this summer when after just a couple weeks of hot and dry weather that the grass was dry, withered, and more yellow than green. It is remarkable how quickly soft green grass can become coarse, shriveled, and brittle—the kind of grass that pokes you as you sit down. Grass can move so quickly between flourishing and withering, but so can I. One week I am doing well and the next I am struggling. Sometimes it is not my circumstances that have changed, just my perspective. I can feel dry, weak, weathered, and withered. I long to be led by quiet waters for refreshment and renewal of my soul.

Application: Which is a better description of you right now, lush green grass or dry withered grass? Is it because of circumstances, or your perspective, or both? Take a few moments to consider and journal about some times from this past summer that you felt rested, refreshed, and sustained. Give thanks for God’s goodness and provision. A heart that is full of thankfulness seldom feels empty or dry.

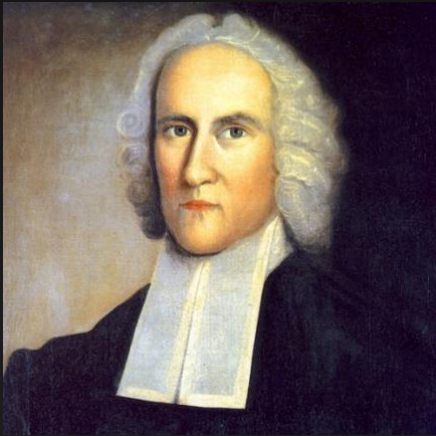
PRAYER

Lord God, watching the grass go back and forth over the summer between healthy and verdant to parched and tawny is descriptive of my own experience in life. Admittedly, I am as constant as grass, which is not saying much. However, you are my constant. You, O Lord, are faithful, regular, and steadfast. Help me to be quick to remember your goodness and to run to you more readily. My heart may falter and fail, but you remain firm. My heart is full of thanks for all the ways I have seen your kindness this past summer. Indeed, you have laid me down in green pastures and you have led me beside still waters. You are my source of refreshment and renewal. You alone can cause me to be faithful, for I have none of that quality apart from you. I praise you and thank you in Christ's name. Amen.

CONFIRMATION

Isaiah 40:6-8 confirms that grass is a biblical emblem for human weakness. Verse 6 says, "all flesh is grass." Isaiah goes on in this passage to speak of the way grass withers and fades. Grass is not a picture of constancy, neither are human beings. All our attempts at covenant loyalty wither just like grass. However, according to Isaiah, God's word will stand forever. God's word is unfading and is therefore a source for rest, refreshment, and renewal. The power of God's word is unfading. I am reminded of the need for constant engagement with God's word in order that I might grow in faithfulness. God has graciously provided his word as the sustenance we need to keep from fading and withering. What a great exhortation to feed upon God's Word as cattle would upon fresh green grass.

- Grass is an emblem of human weakness and inability to be faithful to God.



Jonathan Edwards

FROM SERMONS AND DISCOURSES 1734-1738 [[WJE 19:383](#)]

“The wisest and greatest of men, they are but as a leaf that is driven of the wind, and as the dry stubble. Their strength is nothing. They are as unable to help themselves, as a poor infant would be, if it should be cast out on the open field, in its blood in the day that it was born. Man has no more strength to help himself or defend himself, than the grass or flower of the field has to defend itself from the mower's scythe. *Isaiah 40:6*, ‘All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field.’”¹

¹ Jonathan Edwards, From Sermons and Discourses, 1734-1738, [WJE 19:383](#).