

The Value of the Garden!

John 12:24 (NASB 2020) Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Mark 4:28 (NASB 2020) The soil produces crops by itself; first the stalk, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

Isaiah 61:11 (NASB 2020) ...as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

I. We Must be Planted

John 12:24 (NASB 2020) Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

The moment we are born again, God deposits spiritual life within us through the Holy Spirit. He also gives every believer gifts, abilities, and callings designed for His kingdom.

Every seed contains within itself the complete design for what it was created to become. God has already placed inside it the life, the DNA, and the potential necessary to produce fruit. Yet many Christians assume that because they have been saved, spiritual maturity will happen automatically.

Psalms 92:12-14 (NASB 2020) The righteous person will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courtyards of our God. They will still yield fruit in advanced age; They will be full of sap and very green.

The church does not cause spiritual life or manufacture spiritual growth—God does. The church is part of the environment and the means through which God has chosen to cultivate His people. The church provides the specific environment required for spiritual growth. The Church is God's Garden!

1 Timothy 3:15 (NASB 2020) ... I write so that you will know how one should act in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

Church: 1577. ἐκκλησία *ekklēsia*; from 1537 and 2564; an assembly; a congregation, church.

*****Ephesians 4:16 (NASB 2020)** ...from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

II. The Blessing of Being planted

John 12:26 (NASB 2020) If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Honor: g5091. τιμάω *timáō*; from 5093; to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere: — honor, value.

Revere: to show devoted deferential honor to : regard as worthy of great honor

Luke 5:7 (NASB 2020) ...so they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, to the point that they were sinking.

Both boats were filled! Peter called for help, they came, and were both blessed!

John 4:35-36 (NASB 2020) Do you not say, 'There are still four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together.

When we answer the call to help in God's work, we share in the labor, the harvest, and the joy.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT) A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

*****1 Corinthians 12:28 (NASB 2020)** And God has appointed **in the church**, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and various kinds of tongues.

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No single plant supplies everything. Each contributes something unique. Together they create something far more beautiful than any one plant could accomplish alone. The church reflects this same design. Every believer supplies something another believer needs. Every gift strengthens someone else. Every act of service contributes to the health of the whole body.

James 5:14-15 (NASB 2020) Is anyone among you sick? **Then he must call for the elders of the church** and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; **and the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick**, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NASB 2020) Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

God never intended Christians merely to attend church. He intended them to be planted there. Only planted seeds grow. Only growing plants bear fruit. And only fruitful plants fulfill the purpose for which they were created.

III. A call for commitment

John 12:26 (NASB 2020) **If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me...**

Romans 12:1 (NASB 2020) Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB 2020) Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.