

Sherry's Garden Stories

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon"

Psalm 92:12

When we think of our life, we reflect on things good and bad. Most often we look at the "regret." With God there is no regret. Sometimes it is necessary to look back to be able to go forward. The important aspect is not to linger in the past. Repent, forgive, and forget. Learning from the past and taking those truths and going forward is progress and growth.

The Lord desires for all of us to have understanding of who we are and how we are designed. He designed us and gave us our personalities. It is up to us to choose the right things to cause us to flourish. By asking Him for guidance and standing on His truths and His promises, we grow and stand tall like a cedar. Learning God's word and trusting it and Him; we grow and become a righteous servant and this allows Him to trust us.

Walking in God's word we cannot fail. Sometimes we may falter, but He will always bring us back on track. Knowing His truth will keep us on the right path. His truth will always give us hope and allow us to see past our own understanding.

Truths are promises from our Heavenly Father. His love for us causes our hearts to be drawn to His heart, thus we grow. In this growth we become the garden. What we plant in this garden allows for God's hand to be seen.

We are going to explore what it takes to produce fruit in both gardens. God's garden and nature's garden. Comparing the two gardens will be a journey that will bring us to his heart. It will be a time of laughter and learning, tears and joy; that will allow us to break forth His seeds into a living, loving child and a plant of His.

The garden

We are going to start with learning about heirloom plants and learning about being an heir in the kingdom of God.

Heirloom plants come from seeds or bulbs that have been passed down from one generation to the next generation. These plants come with a history. Gardeners have shared and saved these seeds, along with stories and memories. which have been passed down through generations. Let's take a look at an heirloom and a memory.

Alcea/Hollyhock

Hollyhocks are old fashion charmers. They are best planted against a fence or a wall or at the back of a border. Older single sections can reach 9 feet tall. They have big, rough, rounded, heart shaped leaves. The flowers are 3 to 6 inches wide and they run along an upright stem. They vary in size from 4 to 6 feet

tall with colors including white, pink rose, purple, creamy yellow, and apricot. These are the “old barnyard” mix. “Happy lights” are the 5-7 foot tall variety.

I have chosen this variety because my grandmother had these in her yard by the barn. I loved these flowers so much as a child. The blossoms were huge and the velvety stem so thick. I would cut these and bring them to my grandmother. Never knowing that she didn’t want them cut. She would always smile and hug me and act like she was so excited to get them (unconditional love). Fond memories to me, even today.

We would plant the seed in late summer. The ground was fertile and the water drainage was good. By spring of next year we had a new crop. In the summer we watered every day, because Arkansas summers were hot. We planted them in partial shade. In winter, I anticipated the new blooms and waited. Sometimes the winters were long in the Ozarks. We watched expectantly looking for the first sprouts to rise and our hopeful hearts caused the winter to pass quickly.

When you wait for the winter in your life to pass, trust that God created that winter. The winter of rest that you need is always in God’s hands.

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:3