

BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED!

2 Corinthians 10:12b but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

An ancient legend tells of a king who walked into his garden one day to find almost everything withered and dying. After speaking to an oak near the gate, the king learned that he was troubled because he was not tall and beautiful like the pine. The pine overheard their conversation and added that she, too, was upset, for she could not bear delicious fruit like the pear tree. The pear tree heard his name and began to complain that he did not have the lovely odor of the spruce. And so it went throughout the entire garden.

Near the very edge of the garden grew a little daisy. As the king approached, he noticed her bright little face, full of life. "Well, little flower," said the monarch, "I'm glad to find that there is at least one happy face in my garden."

"Oh king," she said, "I know I'm little, and not many people notice me, but one day I realized that you if planted me here, you must have had a good reason. So, your majesty, I've determined to be the best little flower I can be!"

Our King has planted a beautiful garden. Not one of us is greater than the next. It is his His perfection.

We must come to a place where we trust that God has a reason for creating us the way He has and has planted us in just the place he desired. Comparing ourselves with one another will only make us wither. When we become satisfied in His creation (that is us), that's when we'll find true happiness" .. and we will shine.

Let's give God our all our disappointments and be determined to be the best that we can be for Him!

Thanks be to God who . . . through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. —2 Corinthians 2:14

****Bloom Where You're Planted....

A friend of mine used to operate a ranch in the Owyhee desert south of Boise, Idaho. Once when I was visiting his old homestead he pointed out a gnarled juniper tree, the only one in sight. You wouldn't travel very far to see it and it wasn't much to look at, but it was doing its job—providing shade for a cow or two. My friend said that it was the best illustration he had ever seen of the principle: "Bloom where you're planted."

His analogy made me think of another rancher I used to know who lived near Lometa, Texas. He knew everyone in town—called them by name and knew what was happening in their lives. He would stop

and ask about a sick child or an ailing marriage, and then he would offer a word of encouragement and prayer. He didn't force his faith on anyone, but its influence lingered wherever he had been. He had about him "the fragrance of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:15).

We can have that same fragrance wherever we go, as we quietly manifest Jesus' love. Even if no one acknowledges our efforts, God sees and knows.

So don't be discouraged. Never give up. Bloom where you're planted. What you do has eternal significance in God's eyes. —DHR

God has placed you here for a purpose,

Whatever it might be;

Know He has chosen you for it

And labor faithfully. —Anon.

Bloom Where You Are Planted

"Bloom where you are planted,"

I heard a quiet voice say:

"But, Lord," I protested,

"I'm getting older, and beginning to get gray.

"It makes no difference",

This quiet voice said;

"Everyone has a place in life,

Even those confined to bed."

"But, Lord, I am weak and frustrated,

Who would listen to me?

I want to do what I can,

But I can barely hear, or see."

"Oh, my child, you are so special,
I've made all my children that way;
You have a deep, abiding love,
That encourages others day by day."

"Believe me, my dear child,
I know what I say,
Now, no more back talk!
Just listen and obey."

I opened up my Bible,
And as I began to read,
I was truly astonished,
When I realized my need.

I'd only craved the fun in life,
It's pleasures fed my soul.
But God was telling me,
That's not His purpose or His goal.

To be humble and loving,
I can serve my Savior well,
Then I'll have my mansion in heaven,

Where for everlasting I'll dwell.

Today I found this little gift,
It made me realize how true,
So bloom where you are planted,
And God's blessings be on you...

~ Eva May Young ~

3-30-05

It gives me a warm feeling in my heart to write poetry. I am a "Golden Ager" shut-in and writing keeps my mind busy with something I've done ever since I was a child, and it's my way of sharing our LORD with who ever comes to visit. Thanks for reading my poetry

A lot of times people remember random gems of wisdom and ascribe them to the Bible. A little research finds that this is one of those. People will throw it out as a verse from Proverbs, or Paul but no, it is just a plain old saying...but words that share a powerful truth, all the same.

On a recent trip through parts of Co., Ks, IA and MN, (off the interstates) I was very grateful to marvel at the miles and miles of seeds which had been planted. The lush wheat fields, looked like they had been carefully trimmed and manicured. They had grown about 1 ft. tall.... waiting to become those amber waves of grain that we sing about. Further along, the corn was starting to peek through the dark earth. I was, also, very grateful for all the farmers who had chosen to plant themselves here, to do that hard work so the rest of us have food.

Sometimes, I have to do research and sometimes it drops in my lap. This month's SDC Elec Magazine..... was just that. The story about the Fanfare... the Johnson girls were people that I knew. Youngest one, Kay, graduated with my older sister so I was just little. Wild Horse is about the size of Granite. These girls took an idea and helped it blossom with its start is that small town. Get a chance to read it.

Bloom where you're planted....is not hard to understand, but so much harder to do. For the flower it's easy, but for a person? Sometimes we close ourselves up and pull the flower petals in tight and declare,

No way am I going to bloom. Sometimes when we are far away from where we want to be. Sometimes we are in a place that is strange and troubling and difficult and fearful...So what do you do? What do you do when your world is turned upside down and inside out. Where you live is not home, when those you live among are not family, when God has seemingly abandoned you entirely? Do you grit your teeth and steel your will and hang on as best you can? Do you shout a bitter complaint and stubbornly refuse to play along or do you withdraw into yourself silence and self-pity?

Could you bloom where you are planted, wherever you are? Could you do more, much more, than just get along, get by, make the best of it but live with eagerness and purpose and gratitude and Joy?

Whenever you take a seed and plant it in the ground, given the correct conditions it will grow. It is an amazing truth of God's plan for everything and we are the same. We are meant to grow where God plants us.

We have been given gifts and talents from God to use to build His Kingdom and glorify His name. Being planted in a church means you value each other just as a plant values the ground, the oxygen, the sun and the water. As a child of God, you have something to offer, something unique, something special: God has given it to you and you should be using it.

-- If you keep a grain of wheat in your pocket, it will look exactly the same ten years from now

True contentment is found, not in having everything you want, but in not wanting to have everything.

Wherever we are...whatever tough stuff falls before us.. we are meant to live and thrive, and grow in the life of God. Amen.....