



Be-Loved Devotionals

Blossom and Bud

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

(Genesis 1:31)

Do you know that when God created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that he made them with pure love and with special attention to every detail of who they were, there personality and how they would look.

Did you also know that he made you with the same love care and attention?

For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

(Psalm 139:13-14)

Why then do we have this tendency to notice everything about ourselves that is wrong and fail to see the good?

I believe it's because we fail to see our spiritual growth as a process, we feel we should already be the finished product.

Regardless of the areas of our life that are still messy, in Gods eyes we are always beautiful!

We need to learn that in Gods time and in his way, he is changing us every day, and that perfection will never be realised this side of heavenand that's ok!

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet^{no} no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end

(Ecclesiastics 3:11)



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The Garden of Our Life Revealed

"I am the true vine, and my father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

(John 15:1-2)

Do you know that God is described in the bible as a gardener, and the bible often refers to our lives as type of garden that needs caring and tending for.

When Adam and Eve messed up in the Garden of Eden, they hid from God, thinking that he would not know or find out what was wrong with their lives.

But the truth is God did know, and I sense he was more concerned with the fact that they were hiding than what they had done wrong

Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

(Genesis 3:8) Read whole chapter for context

When we hide parts of our lives from God, think he doesn't know, or don't talk to him about the messy parts we can begin to lose our joy, our sense of self and the ability to be fruitful.

We may deep down feel like a fraud, like we are living a double life, we feel guilty we feel shameful, we stop growing spiritually, we disconnect from God and others and ultimately we don't **Blossom and Bud** which means we will not live fruitful lives,

To combat unfruitfulness, we need to learn that God loves us (even the messy parts), and we need to fully let him in to the garden of our lives. Let's stop pretending, let's stop hiding...it's time to let God into the garden he is waiting with open arm



Reflection Suggestions

*Reflect on everything you have heard as a part of this devotional and through the previous **Be-Loved** video teachings linked on the web page. Maybe journal your thoughts, do something creative or take some time to worship God.*

Some suggested questions you might ask yourself as part of this process are:

Do you tend to focus on the parts of your life that are not so good?

List some things about yourself that are good!

Do you struggle with perfectionism?

Is there anything you are hiding that you don't talk to God about or you just skim the surface

As a last step I would strongly recommend the following prayer

Heavenly Father,

I thank you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made and that when you created me you immediately declared me as good!

Lord, I acknowledge that here are areas of my life that need work and some that are just completely neglected because I don't allow you in.

Lord, please break down the wall of my garden, remove fear and come into the Garden of my life today.

In Jesus Name

Amen

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