

## God's Amaryllis

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NRSV)** - So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.

**Matthew 6:34 (LB)** - So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.

It came in the mail...well wrapped, marked fragile. I opened it up and there in the middle of a birch pot was an enormous bulb...very little soil around it and looking very dead as it seemed to me. But the instructions said to add some, not a lot but some water and place it in a bright light spot but not in the sun. It even had some temperature restrictions on it. And last but not least, it said that in 4 to 8 weeks it would blossom.

Weeks passed and surely it seemed to me that this bulb was bad and was not going to bloom and yet I felt obliged to give it a chance. And lo and behold at 6 weeks the stem started to grow and by eight weeks there were two stems, and a short time later there were seven of the most glorious red and white blossoms that I had ever seen. And even now there appears to be at least two more that will bloom sometime later. What an awesome miracle of nature!

And I think that sometimes our lives feel like that hard, cold, lifeless bulb...overwhelmed with grief, or loss...filled with anxiety about life...empty and lifeless. And then Jesus comes and puts His arms around our lives, calls us by name, and reminds us of His enormous love for us. He replaces our fears with hope, our anxieties with peace, our loss with comfort, our sadness with joy and, like the amaryllis bulb, we begin to grow...slowly at first but steadily with His guidance and His love and before we know it we are blossoming with the gorgeous blooms of His love and His grace and His forgiveness. It is a miracle...to bloom and grow when we thought all was lost.

Join me this week in being a human amaryllis and drawing close to the One who will be with us through all of our journey. Rest in His light, be watered by His love, and patiently wait for His blossoms to open in you for others to see and to bring Him glory.

**Prayer:** Gracious and Loving God...sometimes we do feel like bulbs with no signs of life. The burdens of life seem too great to overcome and your presence seems far away. Help us this week to rest in your light, to be watered by your love and your grace, and to trust that in time, through your love and because of your care, we will bloom with a new zest for life and hope for our future. Remind us that we are never alone and that you know us by name...we are your children. Remind us that as we bloom, we must share your fragrance with others so that they might be refreshed and encouraged. For your awesome love, your grace and your forgiveness, we give you thanks. In your precious name we pray. Amen