

## **Bloom Where You Are Planted....**

**Psalm 92:12-15** - But the godly shall flourish like palm trees, and grow tall as the cedars of Lebanon; for they are transplanted into the Lord's own garden and are under his personal care. Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital and green. This honors the Lord and exhibits his faithful care.

I have just made my trip to visit my favorite nurseries and picked out the wonderful flowers that will add beauty and color to our home this spring and summer season. My heart sings as I look at all of the colors and shapes and textures of endless rows of beautiful blossoms. I figured out long ago where to place the plants and just what fertilizer to use to maximize their blooms and how often I must water them. And with faithfulness on my part...what an awesome sight it will be. It may be a lot of work but the results are spectacular!

And I got to thinking about the garden that God has planted within us...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. What awesome blossoms they are and yet they also take some faithfulness to keep them healthy and strong. We will need to be in God's word that it might feed our souls with direction, forgiveness and hope. We will need to be in prayer to dissolve anger, hurt, envy or sorrow that might destroy the garden in our souls. And we will need to be sharing our blossoms with others that we meet so that they, too, can be touched by the love of God through us. And when we truly know God, love Him, remember Him and imitate Him in all areas of our lives, we will be the garden that God created us to be, loving the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds and souls and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Will you join me this wonderful season of the year....take time to tend the flowers and take time to flourish the garden within us that God has planted? I promise you awesome results!

**Prayer:** Gracious and wonderful God, when we look at all the beautiful flowers we are clearly reminded that you are a God of details. Thank you for your wonderful creation. Help us to care for it as tenderly as we care for the flowers in our gardens. And God, help us to care for the garden that you have planted within us. Let our love for you bring you joy. Help us to remove the weeds of anger, fear, jealousy, hopelessness and resentment. Pour into our hearts all the needed ingredients to help us grow deep, not just tall. Make us like you, Lord, please make us like you! For your grace, your forgiveness and your endless living water of love, we give you thanks. In your precious name we pray. Amen.