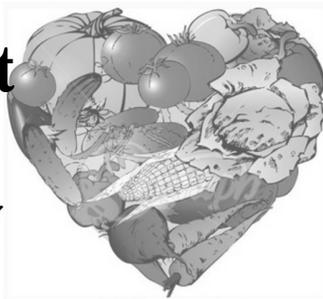




My Heart Garden Blooms!



1 John 2:25-3:3

I can prepare the garden of my heart, protect it, and water it with prayer and love, but God is the One who must perform the miracle of life. He causes the little seeds to spring up, grow, and produce beautiful flowers or fruit. This incredible sprouting usually happens in darkness, and too gradually to be seen. God knows the amazing possibility of one little seed—the potential to grow into maturity and then to die, scattering life-giving seeds that then reproduce.

My part is careful heart preparation and constant vigilance and carefulness to protect that growth. Paul said, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (*1 Cor. 3:6*). Paul exhorted the Philippian believers, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (*Phil. 2:13*).

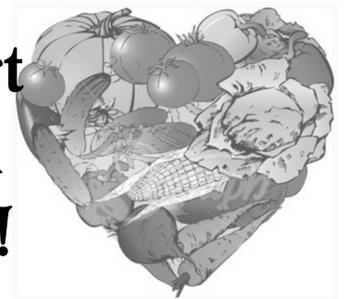
Gardens must be prepared and planted and protected; only God can make them grow and bring forth life-giving fruit. My part is preparation, taking in the pure seed of God’s Word, and guarding. A lovely thought is that our heart will ultimately and finally “bloom” when we are with the Lord. It does “not yet appear what we shall be” but when the Lord Jesus “shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” (*1 John 3:2*). God gives us a foretaste of this as we delight in His working in our hearts and the hearts of others.

How glorious it will be when He perfects that work He has begun (*Phil. 1:6*); and when “as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (*1 Cor. 15:49*). It is the Lord Jesus who will present us “faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (*Jude 24*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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