

Waiting

2020-08-07 Devotion

by Pastor Sharon Tidd

Psalm 37:7a tells us to “Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him.”

About 20 years ago, when my son was 3, we planted our very first vegetable garden. It was only about 3 feet by 6 feet, so it wasn't much, but we were excited about it anyways. We planted the seeds together ... we watered them, and we waited, and we watered them, and we waited some more, and we watered some more, and so on. It seemed like weeks went by before we saw anything happen. Any gardeners out there know what I'm talking about?

I remember how excited Ryan and I were when we saw the first hint of actual plants coming to life. The waiting had been torturous ... but now we were seeing the results. We had a pretty good crop that summer ... carrots, and cucumbers, tomatoes and watermelons. Unfortunately, we didn't get to enjoy too much of it ourselves as a neighbourhood ground-hog family ate most of it up on us. But we didn't care all that much. It was just fun to see those seeds grow and produce good fruit!

It takes time for things to change and grow in our lives, too, just as it takes time for a seed to break open and roots to develop and a shoot to spring up and actual 'fruit' and 'vegetables' be produced. In a vegetable garden, most of the change happens silently, under the surface, unseen by human eyes. We keep watering, believing that fruit will develop “in time”. But waiting can be challenging!

It can be the same in our lives. Probably, for most of us, there are things we'd like to see change in our circumstances ... or maybe in our character. And we can get very impatient in the waiting, can't we? We can get discouraged thinking things are never going to get better. But we need to believe that God is working ... silently, in secret ... to bring about positive changes and to develop His fruit in us. His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, goodness and self-control.

Psalm 37:7 tells us to “Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him.” Like the gardener, we need to patiently wait on the work God is doing in and around us. We need to trust that He is working, always! In some things, we will need to partner with Him ... I mean we can't expect to become more patient if we don't actually attempt to be patient! It takes practice, right? But mostly, we need to allow God to do His work within us and the people around us. He is working ... often unseen by us, and His timing is perfect!

Max Lucado has said, “Be patient. God is using today's difficulties to strengthen you for tomorrow. He is equipping you. The God who makes things grow with help you bear fruit.”

I hope we each will patiently wait for God knowing that He wants to produce good fruit in our lives!