

A Word Of Hope

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Proverbs 25:11

March/April 2004

Vol. 3



Springtime

(A time of preparing, planting and waiting.)

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”

Song of Solomon 2:11-12a “See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come,”

Springtime is a time of new growth. It's fresh and filled with anticipation. But it does not come without stages of preparation. True, the cold winter is over but it now becomes the time when farmers and gardeners till up the soil, getting it ready for the seed planting. The ground, which has hardened through the winter, is broken up until the soil becomes soft and workable. The plowing is often tedious, taking time as the plow moves methodically from row to row until the whole field has been furrowed. In fact, this preparation stage is the hardest part of the work in planting. It may require removing rocks and tree stumps that are heavy or have deep roots. During this process it is not unusual to see a farmer in the field from early morning until the end of daylight. He takes advantage of every opportunity he can to prepare the ground for planting. When the soil is finally ready he plants the seed and waters it. After this he waits. Just waits. At this point, there is nothing more the farmer can do. The germination and sprouting of the seed are not in his control and are done out of his sight under ground.

Continued on page 2

*Dear Readers,
In our last newsletter, we took a look the season of winter and our spiritual lives. This time we're jumping into spring and the lessons of the farmer. God bless you as you read.*



*“The sun, with all those planets moving around it, can ripen the smallest bunch of grapes as if it has nothing else to do.
Why then should I doubt His power?”*

Galileo

Cont. from page 1

But if he has prepared his soil properly, planted and watered, the farmer can rest in faith knowing that the seeds will germinate and begin to grow at the proper time.

In the same way, God develops the spring of our spiritual lives. There first must be a preparing of the ground before He can plant anything in it. The Lord will begin to plow up the soil of our hearts so that he can plant the seeds of his Word. Christ-likeness, hope, dreams, visions, plans-all these are seeds that God desires to plant in us. During the preparation, the Holy Spirit will show us the things that must be done and there requires cooperating on our part to work with Him in the process. We may have to remove some rocky obstacles or dig out the roots of some old “stumps” that are in the way. But as we obey and yield, God will continue breaking up those hard places until they become soft and workable. Only when the soil is ready will he then plant within our heart a word, a promise, a dream, a vision, or a desire. And once the seed is there, we wait.

At first we may be anxious to see results. It may seem that nothing is happening. We may wonder if the promise will ever grow. We may be tempted to dig it up and see if it is doing anything, but this temptation must be resisted. To disturb the soil could damage the seed and stunt its full ability to produce or worse yet, abort the growing process altogether. These are the times when we must water it with faith and then trust it to the Lord. In the natural eyes we may see nothing happening, but you can be assured that if the ground has been prepared, the seed has been planted, and we are watering it with faith that God is definitely doing something miraculous beneath the surface of our heart. You can be sure of it. One morning the farmer will look out into his field and see rows of tiny green shoots pushing up through the soil-right on time-just like he expected. And like the farmer, we will also awake one morning to see tiny signs of life sprouting from the seed God has put in us. And in the wonder of God's grace we will watch as the promise – the dream – the hope – the vision – whatever has been planted by the Lord - begins to grow into its fullness.

Whether you are in the process of preparation, the process of waiting for God to plant the seed, or perhaps the seed has been planted and you are waiting for something to happen, I encourage you to continue watering with faith. Regardless of whatever spring stage you are in, rejoice! God desires to produce a garden for his glory in your life. The seeds planted by God always sprout right on time! ☞



His Promise

In times of quiet solitude,
He gently speaks to me.
Like the sweetness
of a spring rain,
That's falls so softly.
In the stillness of the evening
When my day has come to rest.
I hear Him whisper to me,
He tells me I am blessed.
With guiding hands
he leads me;
protecting all the way.
Reminding me of His Presence
and promising to stay.

By Cheryl Ann Botelho © 1985