

Bloom!

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My husband has memorialized his love for me on special occasions with beautiful bouquets of flowers. I enjoy their color and the scent I receive every time I walk by them, especially when the vase contains lilies or roses, my favorites. But in each bundle, there are some flowers that are still buds. These have the potential to bloom, but never open up. Even if I add the plant food that comes with the bouquet into the water, they stubbornly refuse to open. When it's time to throw the dead flowers away, the buds have remained closed. They seem wasted.

All flowering plants need the process of photosynthesis to bloom. They absorb the carbon dioxide in the air, receive water and nutrients from the soil and utilize the energy from the sun to burst out of their tight buds. Aha! This is why the buds in my husband's bouquets didn't bloom. They were inside on my dining room table, where this process could not take place.

God created flowers to display the splendor of His glory. Isaiah 35:2 says, "Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of God."

I love the wonderful variety of flowers God has made, and I have met many different women that also represent the variety of God's creation. Each one is here on the Earth to bloom fully, displaying the beauty of what God has placed inside of her.

Unfortunately, many women don't bloom to their full beauty. I am talking here about the beauty that runs deep within and is exposed on the outside through using their gifts and spreading God's love.

The Bible is filled with the importance of becoming your best self. Psalm 92:12 promises, "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree." In Proverbs 11:28 we read, "The righteous will thrive like a green leaf." Who among us doesn't want to thrive and flourish?

Perhaps you are feeling like spring may never come to your life. You may have found yourself tucked into a tight bud of regret or disappointment. Perhaps fear or anger have pasted the petals of your life tightly shut. Just as I know that March will produce the winds to take away winter and prepare the Earth for April's rain, so I am sure that God is ready to blow His wind over your life to bring you to a wonderful new place in Him. But you first must know how to bloom.

1. You need to be planted early. Spring bulbs are planted in autumn. They remain dormant to the naked eye during the winter, but the soil is preparing them for growth. Early daffodils are quick to bloom by just a few beams of spring light. What a welcome sight they are in the spring. Other perennials need more heat to pop out of the ground in later months. Invest in who God has made you to be. Receive the nutrients of His purpose and truth so that you are prepared to bloom in His timing.
2. You need to grow your roots well. Do not delay in finding the knowledge, training, or experience needed for you to grow and foster.
3. You need the warmth of the sun. Your relationship with God needs to be a warm one...one that has much more depth than a few quick prayers for needs and a thank you now and then.
4. You need to let the process of working your character take place. Engage the Holy Spirit to give you a sort of spiritual photosynthesis that is needed to bloom.
5. You need to never disdain what stage you are in. While they are mere buds, peonies produce a sugary substance that draws ants. The ants eat the sugar and protect the delicate peony petals from other insects. This allows the peonies to bloom.
6. You need to expect reproduction. If you are short sighted about who you can be or do, you will limit the potential God sees in you. You should prepare to produce seeds. These seeds will become part of the people you touch. Your gifts and work will spread as you open up to changing others, who in turn will bloom.

I have never met an ugly woman that was truly blooming according to God's plan. No matter how old, how disfigured, or how plain a woman may seem, His inward work affect the features of the face and the posture of the body. Blooming in God's personal plan for you is the best cosmetic a woman can have!

Be a beauty! Bloom!