

"And the LORD shall guide thee continually....and thou shalt be like a watered garden" (*Isaiah 58:11*). God must love gardens! He placed the first humans in a beautiful garden; later the Lord Jesus came often to a garden to commune with His Father (*Matt. 26:36; Mark 14:32*). Jeremiah 31:12 compares our innermost selves to a garden: "their soul shall be as a watered garden."

Will I neglect my heart and let weeds take over, or will I allow God to cultivate a beautiful design? Gardens don't just happen! If thoughts are allowed to grow wild, my heart (and life) can become a mess rather than a beautiful place.

All attractive gardens must have a plan. I may have a dream plot, possibly filled with roses or an array of beautiful plants. However, God has a perfect plan for my heart and life. He is the Master Gardener and I need to let Him work out His design.

God knows the climate, soil, and sunshine of my life. I must not insist on having my way and my dream fulfilled but be open to all that God has for me. Am I willing to let God take over the Master Plan and be the One who decides where, how, and when my life should "bloom"?

Perhaps a moon garden would most please the Lord. These are planted to be enjoyed under the light of the moon; they have bright white or pale blossoms that open at night to release a delightful fragrance which attracts various night pollinators and creates a magical view in darkness. Perhaps God would choose a flower garden where flowers bloom in different seasons, a practical vegetable plot, or an amazing orchard. "As for God, His way is perfect" (*Psalm 18:30*). Will I trust His plan, no matter how barren things might look now?

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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