

Bloom Where You are Planted

Are you where you want to be? Is this the financial condition, the state of health, the relationship position in which you expected to be at this stage of your life? Are things better for you than you thought they would be? Are things worse than you anticipated?

The old saying, "bloom where you are planted" means to make the best of the situation in which you find yourself. Sometimes flowers not planted in the best of soils still burst forth in radiant beauty. Often, Christians render their greatest service in their darkest hour. Their productivity is the result of their attitude. They're not waiting for the grandest stage upon which to stand and serve God. They're not holding back until they have more money, more time, more knowledge, etc., etc., etc. They're doing what they can where they are.

A favorite hymn from days gone by echoes this sentiment. See if you remember this one:

Brighten the corner where you are!
Brighten the corner where you are!
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar;
Brighten the corner where you are!

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed your light afar;
To the many duties ever near you now be true,
Brighten the corner where you are.

Just above are clouded skies that you may help to clear,
Let not narrow self your way debar;
Though into one heart alone may fall your song of cheer,
Brighten the corner where you are.

Here for all your talent you may surely find a need,
Here reflect the bright and Morning Star;
Even from your humble hand the Bread of Life may feed,
Brighten the corner where you are.

Certainly these thoughts have brought to mind the great apostle Paul and his exemplary attitude. He had run the gamut of experiences in his faithfulness to God. Of these experiences he wrote,

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:11-13)

In Acts 16:22-24 we read of Paul and Silas being beaten and cast into a Philippian prison. The next verse tells us that they "sang praises unto God." We know from Acts 28 that Paul was later in a Roman prison. Paul closed his inspired letter to the Philippian congregation with these words: "All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Philippians 4:22-23). Rather than pitying his plight while in that Roman prison, Paul instead chose to bloom where he was planted and preach the Gospel, even to those of Caesar's household. Paul saw life's difficulties as opportunities to glorify God (II Corinthians 11:23-30). Said he, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." (II Corinthians 12:10).

What is your station in life this very moment? Don't you know that Satan wants you to believe that you are not in a position to serve God and work for Him? Don't you know that the father of lies (John

8:44) wants you to keep putting off faithfully doing God's will until things get "better" for you? Dear Christian, opportunities abound! They are right there in front of us every day, no matter the heights or depths of life that we might be experiencing. Let's bloom where we are planted and serve God by serving others and taking them the saving Gospel today.

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