

December 2021

Weekly Planner and Meditations
on Spiritual Gardening

grow

As I am writing this, my garden plants are producing fruit, but not all of them. A watermelon plant in my greenhouse that I didn't water is very small and although it has a few flowers, they are too late and it will not have a chance to produce fruit. A tomato plant that I did not weed is hard to find and has only a few small tomatoes on it. A couple plants withered and died from disease. Some were eaten by a porcupine that got into my garden. However, many have produced more than we could eat ourselves and so we have been able to share.

The harvest is a time of celebration. It was never meant to be an individual celebration, but one that celebrated the abundant return that God provides from the earth—a blessing for all.

In the same way, the fruit of the word or spirit is not only an individual blessing. It is also a realization of the Divine purpose—to bear fruit, to increase, and to fill the earth with the glory of God.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Proverbs 11:30 | 11. Deuteronomy 24:19-21 | 21. Ephesians 5:8-10 |
| 2. Galatians 6:7-9 | 12. Matthew 13:30 | 22. Galatians 5:22-24 |
| 3. James 3:17-18 | 13. Proverbs 3:9-10 | 23. 2 Peter 3:13-14 |
| 4. 2 Corinthians 9:9-11 | 14. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 | 24. Isaiah 32:16-17 |
| 5. Isaiah 58:6-8 | 15. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 | 25. Proverbs 21:21 |
| 6. Hebrews 13:15-16 | 16. Leviticus 19:9-10 | 26. Proverbs 11:18-19 |
| 7. Philippians 1:9-11 | 17. Proverbs 20:4 | 27. Philippians 3:9-11 |
| 8. Romans 6:21-22 | 18. 1 John 3:17 | 28. Psalm 85:9-11 |
| 9. Isaiah 61:10-11 | 19. Hosea 10:12-13 | 29. Isaiah 51:7-8 |
| 10. Psalm 126:5-6 | 20. Hebrews 12:10-11 | 30. Numbers 14:21 |
| | | 31. Revelation 19:7-8 |

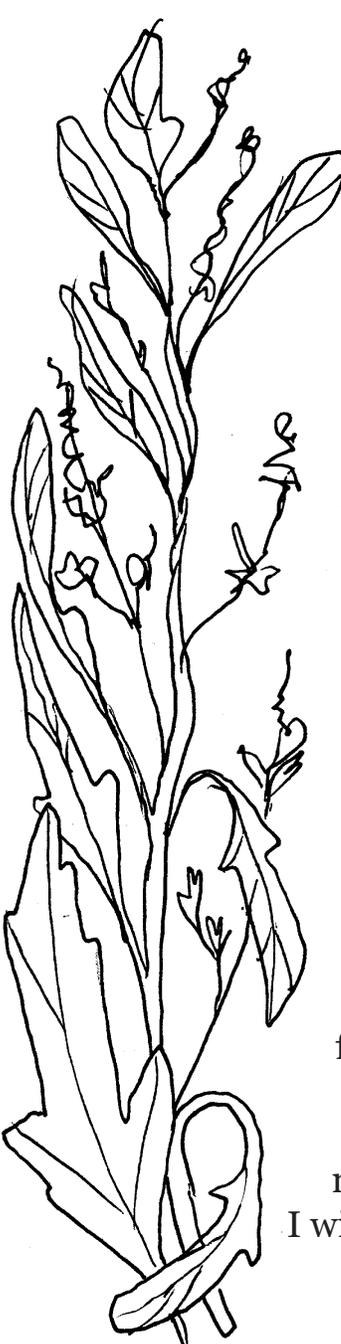


December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Send a note to someone (special anniversaries, someone I am praying for, someone I am thinking of):

Gracious

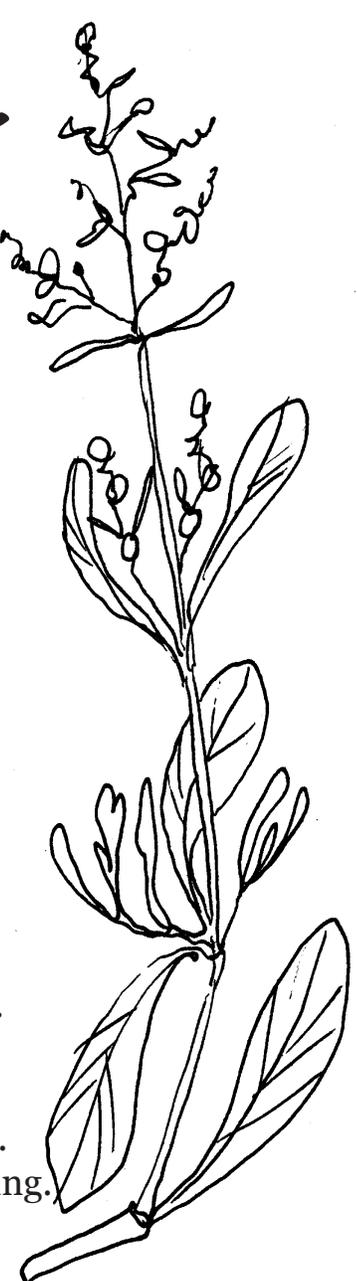


I love the LORD, because he hath heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he hath inclined his ear unto me,
therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.
The sorrows of death compassed me,
and the pains of hell gat hold upon me:
I found trouble and sorrow.
Then called I upon the name of the LORD;
O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
yea, our God is merciful.
The LORD preserveth the simple:
I was brought low, and he helped me.
Return unto thy rest, O my soul;
for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.

For thou hast delivered my soul from death,
mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.
I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

Psalms 116:1-9 KJV



How can I praise God for His graciousness?
What difference does His grace make in my life?
Do I show His grace to others?
How do I need His help to be more gracious?

Write this out as a prayer and pray it several times this month.

praise

give thanks

recognize sin

ask for help

Wednesday Proverbs 11:30

1 Daily Tasks

Thursday Galatians 6:7-9

2 Daily Tasks

Friday James 3:17-18

3 Daily Tasks

Saturday 2 Corinthians 9:9-11

4 Daily Tasks

change

Greek “metamorphoo”: to transform

*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
(2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV)*

**Take some time to ponder these facts
and how they may relate to our spiritual life.**

-  Whatever seed you plant is what you will reap.
-  A harvest may be in the form of seeds, but it may also be the fruit, root, or leaf of a plant or even the flower.
-  A harvest is not necessarily only to produce the means of new plants, but also to nourish other life as the sun’s energy is stored in the plant as nutrients.
-  Harvest is the busiest time of year for a farmer.
-  Some plants take only a few months to produce seed, others can take years.
-  A single wheat seed may produce over 100 seeds at harvest, many other plants produce thousands of seeds in their lifetime.
-  Three biblical feasts were related to harvest: The Feast of Unleavened Bread with the barley harvest, the Feast of Harvest with the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering with the harvest of fruits and vegetables like grapes, olives, dates, figs, pomegranates, etc.
-  The harvests were celebrated with thankfulness and joy.
-  The firstfruits of the harvests were offered to God to acknowledge His ownership of the land and dependance on Him.
-  The corners of the fields were to be left for the poor and stranger to glean, anything forgotten in the field was to be left for the poor, they were not to glean everything from their crops but leave some for the poor, and all the fruit of the seventh year was to be shared by everyone.

meditation

A page for taking notes on meditation. The page features a header with the word "meditation" centered at the top. Below the header, the page is filled with horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. The corners of the page are rounded, and there are small decorative flourishes at the top and bottom corners.

Wednesday Romans 6:21-22

8 Daily Tasks

Thursday Isaiah 61:10-11

9 Daily Tasks

Friday Psalm 126:5-6

10 Daily Tasks

Saturday Deuteronomy 24:19-21

11 Daily Tasks



Now autumn strews on every plain,
His mellow fruits and fertile grain;
And laughing plenty, crown'd with sheaves,
With purple grapes, and spreading leaves.
In rich profusion pours around
Her flowing treasures on the ground.
Oh! mark the great, the liberal hand,
That scatters blessings o'er the land;
And to the God of nature raise
The grateful song, the hymn of praise.

The infant corn, in vernal hours,
He nurtured with his gentle showers,
And bade the summer clouds diffuse
Their balmy store of genial dews.
He mark'd the tender stem arise,
Till ripen'd by the glowing skies,
And now, matured, his work behold,
The cheering harvest waves in gold.
To nature's God with joy we raise
The grateful song, the hymn of praise.

The valleys echo to the strains
Of blooming maids and village swains -
To him they tune the lay sincere,
Whose bounty crowns the smiling year.
The sounds from every woodland borne
The sighing winds that bend the corn,
The yellow fields around proclaim
His mighty, everlasting name.
To nature's God united raise
The grateful song, the hymn of praise

FELICIA HEMANS
(1793-1835)



experience

The most important staple food in the world is the seed of grasses such as corn, wheat, oats, and rice. Do some research on one or two of these grains: Where are they native to and where are they grown now? How are they harvested? How have harvesting methods changed? What processes do they go through to make them ready for use? What kinds of foods are made with them?

Make some bread from scratch and think about how Jesus is the bread of life.



Investigate some fruits or vegetables with seeds such as a pomegranate, a squash, an apple, or a sweet pepper. Marvel at how many seeds come from one seed. Every seed has the potential to grow a multitude of new seeds, but always only the same kind of seed.



Appreciate abundance. When you go to the grocery store or farmers market, take the time to notice how many different varieties of the fruit of the earth are available to you. God is not a frugal or stingy God—He has provided for us way beyond what we actually need. Of course not everyone has such abundance available to them. The biblical principle is for those with much, to be like our God: generous to the point of overflowing.

Think about some practical ways you could share your abundance with others.

Sketch some of your observations below.

Wednesday 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

15

Daily Tasks

Thursday Leviticus 19:9-10

16

Daily Tasks

Friday Proverbs 20:4

17

Daily Tasks

Saturday 1 John 3:17

18

Daily Tasks

An Abundant Harvest

James says that the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth and is patient over it. We must not put too narrow an interpretation upon the figure. Although the application is personal we must not look to the harvest as an opportunity to gain a great reward for ourselves. Individual saints will be rewarded with eternal life—a blessed gift from God, but the harvest is broader than the destiny of one individual.

The hope of harvest is not selfish. It is a multiplied blessing for all. It is surcharged with God's love for man in need. It is the realisation of the Divine purpose, to make man and be manifested among them and in them—man and woman cooperating with and revealing God; the grace of God outshining in the world. This is the harvest; this is the reaping. The point to be stressed is that since the harvest is fraught with love and compassion, so is the well-doing, or it should be.

The word translated “well-doing” in Galatians 6:9 is an interesting one. W.E. Vine says it denotes that which is intrinsically good, fair, beautiful. It means doing things which are honourable and noble, things which are ethically right. It has in it the idea of that which is well adapted to its circumstances or ends.

The Peril in Well-doing

Notice the danger outlined in the Galatian letter. It is not contamination, nor distraction, nor dilution of resources. It is weariness and fainting. Weariness is not tiredness. There is no defence against tiredness but weariness must be resisted. Tiredness makes us rest to be fit to work again. Weariness is losing heart and losing hope. It is sighing instead of singing. It is ceasing to believe in the emerald sheen. It is to relax through pessimism.

By weariness the sharp edge is blunted; shining faces are shadowed. So let every disciple keep bright the vision of the harvest and be forearmed against the assault of weariness and fainting. So we shall reap if we faint not.

—from *The Genius of Discipleship* by D. Gillett

The seeds that we sow will be what we will reap. What do we want to reap?

A good gardener will not try to grow everything, but focus on a few main crops. What is essential to your garden?

A successful harvest requires commitment, time, and energy. How will you manage this?

Do you have a vision of God's harvest to keep you working in your garden during the difficult times?

What have you harvested this year?

my harvest...

A large rectangular frame with rounded corners, containing horizontal lines for writing. The frame is defined by a thin black border. The interior of the frame is filled with horizontal lines, creating a series of rows for text. The top and bottom corners of the frame are rounded, while the side corners are sharp. The text "my harvest..." is centered at the top of the frame.

Wednesday Galatians 5:22-24

22

Daily Tasks

Thursday 2 Peter 3:13-14

23

Daily Tasks

Friday Isaiah 32:16-17

24

Daily Tasks

Saturday Proverbs 21:21

25

Daily Tasks

counting my blessings...

A large rectangular area with a decorative border and horizontal lines, intended for writing. The border has rounded corners at the top and bottom. The interior is filled with horizontal lines, providing a guide for writing.

Wednesday Isaiah 51:7-8

29 Daily Tasks

Thursday Numbers 14:21

30 Daily Tasks

Friday Revelation 19:7-8

31 Daily Tasks

Saturday

1 Daily Tasks

notes...

A page designed for taking notes. It features a decorative border with rounded corners at the top and bottom. The text "notes..." is centered at the top. The rest of the page is filled with horizontal lines for writing.

notes...

A page for taking notes, featuring a decorative border with rounded corners and horizontal lines for writing. The text "notes..." is centered at the top.