

“Time In The Garden Of His Heart”



Personal Meditations

Ireland Pray and Get Away Tour and Retreat - 2016

Preface

*“My beloved is gone down into his garden,
to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens,
and to gather lilies.” Canticles 6:2*

This little devotional looks at scriptures that occur in gardens. Because our Ireland retreat is in County Wicklow, which is known as “The Garden of Ireland”, we thought this theme would be a perfect fit for our times of meditation.

What a tremendous thing that the Lord in His beautiful Heart and innermost Being is as a garden to His bride. She loves WHO He is and wants to spend time knowing Him, communing with His Heart, breathing in His fragrant Life, partaking of His fruit and becoming a vessel that bears His nature. Some people may think it a waste to separate ourselves unto Jesus in this way, but we know that it is needful and precious to the very Heart of our Lord.

As we continue to abide in Him and allow the Seed of Christ to be sown into the good ground of our hearts, we become like a garden that is blossoming forth in the image of Christ. It is Christ in us and it is glorious (Col. 1:27)!

May our time in Ireland be a season of communion, of His sowing into the garden of our hearts, of refreshing communion and rest for the Heart of Jesus and for each one who has gathered here for this time of retreat.

“An Open Door”

*“Behold, I have set before thee an open door,
and no man can shut it.” Rev. 3:8a*



*God has opened Himself to us through His Cross
that we might abide in the Garden of His Heart
and know Him there, and that He might abide in the
garden of our hearts and find rest there.*

The Garden In Genesis



*“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and man became a living soul.*

*And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden;
and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

*And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every
tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food;
the tree of life also in the midst of the garden,
and the tree of knowledge of good and evil”.*

Genesis 2:7-9

The first place God put man was in a garden.

Interestingly enough God did not first put man:

into a field to work...

into a cave to hide...

onto an island to ponder.

God put man in a garden.

He put man in a place of communion.

A place where seeds are sown

and grow to bear fruit.

A place where choices are made based on love.

Choices resulting in death or Life,

determining whose image we bear,

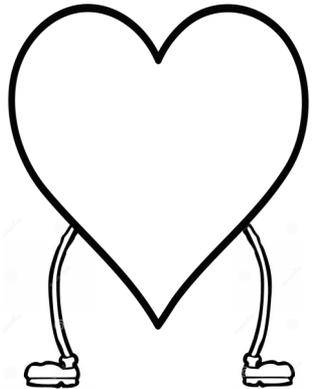
the Lamb or a beast... a sheep or a goat.

Choices that would affect the future of mankind

and the fulfillment of God's Heart.

Our Communion

Heart Steps



In Our Image



**“And God said, Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness”. Gen 1:26**

**“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are
risen with him through the faith of the operation of
God, who hath raised him from the dead”. Col. 2:12**

“The yearning of the Creator for fellowship with beings created after His own likeness, is one of the greatest mysteries in the revelation of the Heart and character of Jehovah. “Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness,” the Triune God had said, when the beautiful earth, created by His word, lay before Him, but with no beings upon it answering to His Heart.”

Jessie Penn-Lewis, “The Cross of Calvary”

“There is an aspect of Christ’s death that is related to the bringing forth of His Bride, the Church. Look closely at Ephesians 5:25, which says, “...Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it”. This means that before going to the Cross, Christ loved the Church and knowingly went to the Cross in order to give Himself for her – a spotless bride. In order to bring about a bride for Adam, the Lord put him into a deep sleep. Just as Adam was put to sleep to bring forth Eve, Christ was put to death (or sleep) to bring forth His Bride.

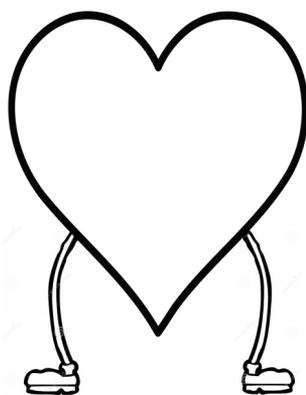


Now let us look more closely at Adam’s operation as the means to bring forth his mate. Let us meditate upon Genesis 2:21-24 in the setting of a surgical operation. Adam was laid down and put to sleep. A rib was taken out, and he was closed back up again. While in this death-like sleep, God wounds Adam near his heart. God’s hand alone goes deep inside this area, removes the desired rib, and then closes up the wound. This was quite a traumatic operation, for something deep within Adam had been removed, and he would never be the same again. That which had been brought forth from within him had entered into a new existence, even a new creation. She was not something created separate from Adam or formed from the dirt, but through the operation of God she was Adam, out from him – Adam in female form.” RT Nusbaum - *Bride Series*

Do we realize that God allowed His Son to go into a deep death on Calvary and was wounded in His side to bring forth a bride? Do we know Him in this intimate relationship, or do we live as separate from Jesus only relating to a God far away in Heaven?

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Choices In the Garden



*Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,
Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

*Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof
thou shalt surely die.*

*Gen 2:18a And the LORD God said, It is not good that the
man should be alone;*

To be or not to be?

You choose the Tree.

*Whether He gets one after His kind
is determined by your heart and mine.*

If you look closely at the scriptures in Genesis 2:27 & 28 you will notice that God did NOT say “it is not good” to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God specifically told them not to eat from that tree because if they did they would surely die. THEN God said what was “not good”... “that man should be alone”. This is the first time God ever mentioned something as being “not good”. Here in the garden we find a huge key into God’s heart and into our part.

God’s Heart

God’s Heart said, “It is not good to be alone”. God was referring here to Adam, but was also sharing a secret need from deep within His own Heart and desire.

Our Part

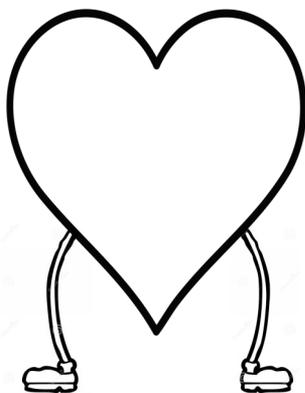
Our part is to not eat from the tree of death, but choose the tree of Life so we can give Him one after His kind and He will not be alone.

Before we were made aware of God’s Heart and needs we may have been motivated to not partake of the knowledge of good and evil because of the consequences to us. But after we are awakened to the very desires of God we can be motivated to reject that tree of death so that the Lord is not “alone” and left without one after His kind.

The tree of death makes us aware of ourselves, blinding us with a corrupt form of knowledge that brings us into death and separation from God and His love for others. The tree of Life is Christ Crucified. When we partake of Him we become filled with His Lamb nature and motivated by His love and selfless giving.

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Enter In To His Rest



“Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

For if Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another day.”

Hebrews 4:7-19

“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”

Isaiah 11:10

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 2:10

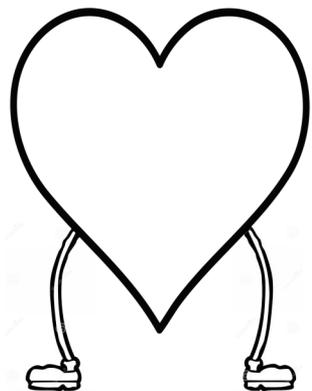
In the Garden of His Heart we might discover (like David did - Heb. 4:7) what GOD'S REST is. If we begin to know God's desire to enter into rest in His people, His bride... then we might soften our hearts to "hear what the Spirit is really saying". When people hear the word "rest" and "enter in", they usually only hear that in regards to THEIR need for a break, relaxation, and undistracted "down -time" from the hassles of daily life. Only those who have turned their hearts and softened towards the Lord Himself and His needs will hear what the Spirit is saying and discover His deep desire to enter into a very specific rest within His people.

David, a man who knew God's Heart, saw the Lord's deep desire for this specific rest. In Psalm 132 David tells us that the Lord has desired to dwell and rest in Zion forever. Zion was an affectionate term for Jerusalem, and in Revelation 21:2,10 the wife of the Lamb is called the new and holy Jerusalem. Jesus, the Lamb of God, desires to dwell in the church, His wife, forever. She is the place of His rest. As our hearts turn and discover His Heart, then our communion will be sweeter than any words could describe. We will be knowing Him in a way that fills us with His fullness, giving Him greater place to dwell and rest within us (Eph. 3:19, Col. 1:27).

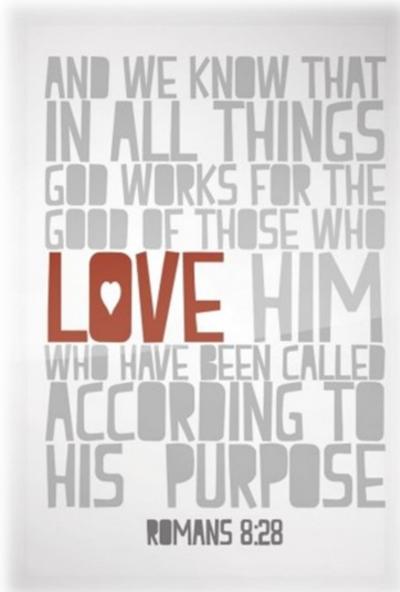
*For the LORD hath chosen Zion;
He hath desired it for his habitation.
This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell;
for I have desired it.*

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All Things for God's Good



“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him”. Gen 2:18

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”. Rom 8:28

Sometimes our definition of “good” is based on our desires, comfort, and general well-being. But God’s definition of “good” is that man (or God) is not alone, but has one after His kind (Gen.2:18). God’s kind is a Lamb, even more specifically, a slaughtered little Lamb (Rev. 5:6). In order for God to truly get one after His Kind, we are going to have to let Jesus be formed in us according to Who He really is, a Lamb. We are going to have to let His nature dwell in us and manifest through us. Those who really love God and are called according to His purpose will allow everything to work together to give Him one after His kind. Being that His kind is a slain Lamb, many of the “all things” that are working to bring forth His nature in us will involve altars.

“LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions: How he swore unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob”. Psa 132:1-5

As we begin allowing everything we go through to work together as a part of fulfilling God’s Heart, a brand new motivation of love for God begins to blossom in our hearts. Instead of allowing things such as suffering, injustice and loss to make us bitter, we see opportunities to let the Lamb of God manifest through us. We begin to LET Jesus LIVE in us, and insodoing fulfill His desire to dwell in His people, His bride. King David considered all the afflictions that he went through as a part of giving God a habitation, a house. He wanted God to have a place to dwell WITHIN His people. The Apostle Paul put it this way, “Christ IN you is God’s hope of glory!” (Col. 1:27). Even when Jesus was dying on the Cross there was a garden before His eyes. This dying Seed knew that much fruit would come from His death and He would have a bride, a place of rest that would fragrantly bear His life. “Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden.”

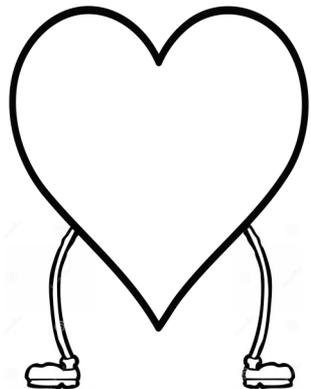
“Now in the place where He was
crucified
there was a garden”.

John 19:41 a



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The Garden of Travail



“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here, while I go over there and pray.’ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.’ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’”

Matthew 26:36-39

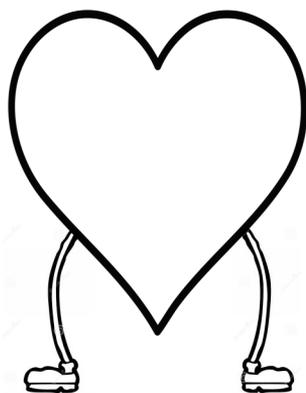
“I sleep, but my heart waketh: *it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night. I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them? My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him. I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer”.*

Canticles 5:2-6

Here, in the garden of Gethsemane, we find one of the most precious forms of intimacy with our Lord. Jesus invited His closest disciples to join with Him in the hour of His deepest sorrow. He embraced them into the garden of His suffering, opening Himself to them at the most vulnerable time of His life. It was an incredible opportunity to commune with the Lord in the depths of His being, yet these disciples fell asleep, just like the Shulamite in Canticles 5:2-6. May our hearts stay awake in this garden of the Heart of our suffering Groom. May we fellowship with Him in His sufferings, being made conformable to His death that we might bear the dying of the Lord Jesus Christ in our mortal flesh, manifesting His true beauty and bringing His Life to others. May this garden of opportunity not be lost but embraced by those who truly love Him (I Cor. 4:10. Phil. 3:10).

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A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up,
a fountain sealed.

Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant
fruits; camphire, with spikenard,
Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon,
with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes,
with all the chief spices:

A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters,
and streams from Lebanon.” Canticles 4:12-15

*This is a Fire Ministries booklet
that is meant to draw your heart closer to the
Person of our Lord and Life, Jesus Christ.*

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