

Life is Like Gardening.

What do you know about gardening? “I know one or two things about it,” you might say because you have been doing it for some years and have learned valuable lessons. My wife and I were delighted to get a vegetable bed at the Community Garden in Grand Forks, in the middle of May last year. Having our first garden in this area, we were so excited about cultivating the soil by taking out the weeds, digging the earth and putting some organic fertilizers on it. A few friends from my church shared tips on the timing for the planting that they had learned over the years, such as two weeks after Victoria Day or a few weeks from the full moon for certain plants.

We forgot all about those tips when we had some hot days in May! We thought it was perfect timing to plant the peppers, tomatoes and lettuce thinking, *“Hey, what could go wrong? It is common sense that as long as there is sunshine, good soil, and water, the plants will grow healthy!”* One night in late May, a frost, with hail came on the garden without any notice, and it just wiped out all my plants. As we were pulling out the dead pricey plants in front of a few gardeners, I felt myself as an idiot thinking, *“We should have listened to the words of the wise!”*

Don't you think life is like gardening in some ways? Many times, the garden of life pays off your hard work. At times, life does not go according to your good feelings. You might have a friend or family member diagnosed with cancer even though he or she had a confidence about their health. Frost and hail of some sort can always come on you like a thief at night and ruin the things that you value. Nobody predicted precisely for the coming of the Covid-19 that has killed more than 3.8 million precious people globally. The deer can jump over the fence of your garden of life and have a joyful feast on those hard-worked vegetables leaving their droppings as their appreciation for you. At some point the time comes to each of us when we can no longer enjoy the bountiful harvest from our garden of life, due to health reasons, aging, and death.

Who do you turn to for advice for fruitful gardening for your soul and life – your current life on earth and beyond? Who would be the best gardener who knows all about your whole being and the garden of the world? From a biblical perspective, the person is God who reveals Himself through the Lord Jesus Christ: ***“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me” (John 15: 1, 4).*** Even if you are not a believer, you would still admit Jesus Christ as one of the greatest teachers who guides us into the light. The Lord knows all about the gardening of our heart and life to make it fruitful for eternity, because He is the creator and the sustainer of the universe and us. As more things are opening from the Covid-19 lock-down, it is a season for the gardening of your life. I pray that you allow the Lord to take over the gardening business of your soul and entire life, so that you can be fruitful and victorious in whatever you do. As you do that, I am sure that you will be like ***“a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers” (Psalm 1: 3).*** May God bless you!

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