

Celebrate Freedom To Be

“...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

The scripture from Isaiah sets the stage for each of us ponder how God influences each of our lives and personal actions day to day. Jacob's words in Genesis 28:16 takes us even deeper into having a feeling of being. It is the knowledge that God is always near people in His creation. Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” There are certain places we gather where the presence of God feels nearby. It's different for every person but often includes churches, other houses of worship, shrines, or for many, in nature. These examples conjure visions you saw in your mind while pondering the scripture thoughts. It is nature, God's Creation, that makes us intensely aware of divine presence as being on holy ground.

This spring is like all the other early spring days around our home. Roses, Lantana, and Turks Cap are a few of the plants that I may have helped plant in our yard and had no idea what to expect from them. Sandy knew! And I no longer doubt her choices. When I walk through our gardens this time of year, I delight in the symphony of colors and fragrances. When I take the time to pause and look closely, I realize that no two blossoms are identical.

The exquisite beauty of the garden and the unique contribution of each blossom provides beautiful diversity of colors, shapes, and fragrances and allow us to experience the wonder of God. Even though it is beautiful around our home, I'm asked to drive to the Botanic Gardens in Grapevine, and Fort Worth, and the Dallas Arboretum. They are simply great places for Sandy's mind to wander freely for her next additions to our house. Mysteriously something new appears in our yard each year. No matter where we plant in our garden, the beautiful diversity of colors, shapes, and fragrances allow us to experience stunning gifts from God.

In addition to enjoying flowers of many colors and fragrances, we must not fail to consider Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13:13. He wrote “And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” Love is the amazing power and gift from God that comforts, heals, uplifts, and transforms. Love has the power to heal the world. By tapping into our soul and mind, we touch divine love. It is that loving source that guides thoughts, words, and actions and allows us able to love unconditionally. Considering all the conflicts and wars and death and destruction in the world today, we must learn to reach out and touch through the divine love from God. When we pray for peace and reconciliation throughout the world, we begin to see the people in it through compassionate and understanding eyes. We see the divine in our worldwide neighborhood and remember that “Neighboring Like Jesus Begins Next Door”.

Peace always,
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