

*He Cares for You*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

God takes care of what He plants, and He has planted us—His children—in the midst of a world that needs to be fed from the fruit of our lives. As He cares for us, He cultivates in us a capacity for love and for life that goes beyond anything we could ask or think. He does this so the Body of Christ can grow and flourish.

The Christian life is a victorious experience! But you may be thinking to yourself, “I don’t feel that way.” Perhaps something has polluted your garden. You may have allowed wrong thinking or runaway subjectivity to cloud your perception of what God is doing in your life.

Certainly, the Word of God teaches us about all that we can be in Him. But the Word also teaches us about the things that every child of God does *not* have to be. Not one of us needs to have defective behavior. Except for righteous indignation, there is not a child of God who needs to get angry. No child of God has to lose his tem-

per with his children. Not one child of God needs to go down in defeat.

This booklet will show you that just as some gardeners enclose a private garden, God has enclosed each of His own in His love and care. Within His walls, He ministers and develops us to think with grace and to live in His mercies, which are new every morning. God cares for us. More specifically, He cares for *you*!

*Chapter One*

GOD'S GARDEN, GOD'S  
PARADISE

"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.

"Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits" (Song of Solomon 4:12-16).

The gardens God mentions in the Bible are unique. For example, in the center of the Garden of Eden, in Genesis 3, God placed the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil along with the

Tree of Life. He forbade Eve and Adam from partaking of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. That tree represents man in his old sin nature whereas the Tree of Life represents man in his new nature. The old nature might be educated, but it is still saddled with the natural good and the bad. Just as God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge, the regenerated child of God is forbidden to partake of any part of his old life, even the best part of it.

The garden, therefore, is where God places a man, where a man lives, and where God fellowships with him. You know the story. The Garden was a place where God enjoyed fellowship with Adam and Eve on a daily basis.

### *Trouble in Paradise*

But Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden when they listened to the subtle rationalizations of the devil, and God had to drive them out. Driving them out was more than just punishment. It was part of God's plan to redeem mankind.

God drove them out because of sin, and the Bible says that He put cherubim and a flaming sword east of the garden to guard the way to the Tree of Life. In effect, the Lord said to the cheru-



bim, "I want you to stay there so that man cannot come back into the Garden to partake of the Tree of Life. If he were to eat from the Tree of Life, he would live forever in his fallen state, because he now has a sin nature that he inherited the moment he disobeyed and partook of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil."

So the Garden was open, and then the Garden was closed. In this, we have a picture of how interested God is in gardens.

### *Paradise: Our Destiny*

The Greek word for "paradise" in the New Testament speaks of a grand, shaded, and well-watered park—a pleasure ground, enclosed by walls and furnished with towers.

In Luke 16:22-25, when the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom, he was carried by the angels into paradise, into a place that was like a beautiful garden. In Luke 23:43, Jesus told the beggar on the cross next to Him that he would be in paradise that very day.

Second Corinthians 12:4 explains that when Paul was taken out of his body (probably after being stoned at Lystra, in Acts 14), the apostle said he was taken to the third heaven, or to par-

adise. Again we find in Revelation 2:7, the Lord Jesus said, "To him that overcometh I give him to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." God's promise "to him that overcometh" is that he will end up in a garden, eating of the Tree of Life.

*Chapter Two*  
ENCLOSED BY HIS LOVE

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

“In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:1-2).

Repeatedly, we see that “garden” in the Bible has a very beautiful meaning. We find it in Revelation 22, as the Bible closes with the greatest chapter. It tells us that what happened in Genesis 3 was redeemed and fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Beautifully, it describes that there is a river, clear as a crystal, proceeding from the throne of God. And there is a tree in that river on each side and in the center. Again, in the Greek, that section where the river is, is called a garden. God

started out with a garden, and God ends with a garden.

The Bible says in Song of Solomon 4:16 and 6:2 that God has a garden, with many wonderful fruits and spices in that garden. God is concerned about His garden. When Eve and Adam were driven out of the Garden of Eden, God said to the angels, "I want you to guard it. I do not want anybody to get back in. That garden is closed, because it is a garden of life. It is a garden of the Holy Spirit. It is the garden of the fruit of the Spirit. It is a garden of sacredness, of separation, of holiness, of righteousness, of purity. It is a garden that is separated unto Me. Therefore angels, do not let them go back in. You are to guard it with a flaming sword."

But God came to redeem mankind, to die upon the Cross, to settle the sin question for the entire world. So the issue became not a question of sin but a question of the Son. And according to 1 John 5:12, he who has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son has not life. Whoever receives Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has life.

### *He Rests in His Love*

"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee

with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17).

Do you know where God rests? He rests in His own love. Therefore, through His love, He established a garden where man could come back into His presence.

In Song of Solomon 4:12, "A garden inclosed is my sister." The sister there speaks of the born-again believer. This is why in Hebrews 2:11, "He sanctifieth and they that are sanctified are one." Therefore, to me, every believer is as my sister, and my sister is as a garden enclosed. In other words, everyone who is sanctified with Jesus Christ is a garden enclosed. Now what does it mean? It simply means that every single Christian is a garden that is separated simply for Jesus Christ Himself.

Every child of God is separated unto Jesus Christ for Jesus Himself (Psalm 4:3). He says, "I've separated the godly for Myself."

"Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people who have been called out from the darkness into his marvellous light, that you should shine forth as sons of God" (1 Peter 2:9).

In effect, Jesus Christ has said, "I lost what I had in the Garden with Adam and Eve, but I

died on a Cross to get My garden back. I want a garden and I want to enclose it and rest there with My love."

There is something special about a garden. There is something refreshing about a garden. And Jesus is saying, "There is something about My garden. I want it enclosed. I do not want anyone else to get in there. I want it to be separated for Myself. I want it to be My garden. I'm jealous for it (2 Corinthians 11) with a godly jealousy."

And so He said for each of us, "I want this garden so set apart that I can go down and enjoy what is planted and what it produced and what grows in that garden."

### *Words of Deliverance*

One time years ago, I counseled a woman who was so fearful, she did not dare to go anywhere without her husband. She was a young woman gripped by and filled with tremendous fear. When I spoke Jesus Christ's words of love to her, she was delivered.

Jesus Christ so loved her, and that is how He loves you too. Once you have received Him, you can be His particular treasure—a particular garden that will produce a particular fruit. You

count with God. You have great value to Him, and He wants you to produce the fruit of the Spirit. God has set you apart, and He has enclosed you as a garden. He has enclosed you so that the perfume, the fragrance, all the aromatic beauties of God's celestial flowers, through the Spirit of life, can come forth in you as His garden.

You are not a garden with weeds. You are not a garden that has been subject to thorns and thistles. You are a garden that God has made to enjoy for Himself—to plant, to cultivate, to walk in, to appreciate the fragrance, to protect, to provide, to fellowship with, where you can experience His life, once and for all.

Eve and Adam were driven out of the Garden of Eden, and that garden was closed. But Jesus Christ brought man back into His Garden and has enclosed it. This is the garden where man would live, where man would pray, where man would serve Him.

The garden is enclosed because of what Jesus did at Calvary.

When Jesus Christ went into the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36), He went to pray to God. The Son was fellowshiping with God the Father in that beautiful garden, and there He sweat drops of blood. That all happened in an

enclosed garden.

God wants each one of us to be a part of His planting, to be a part of His fruit, to be among His flowers, to be a part of His life, and to experience resurrection. It is a resurrected garden, and God has put you in a place that is enclosed.

Notice this carefully, in Song of Solomon 4:12: “A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.”

First, when a spring is shut up, it can only receive help from its source. It cannot receive help from an outside source. Then, the fountain is sealed so not a thing from this world can get inside it. We are His garden, enclosed so that no one can get inside. We are a spring shut up, where we have living water—the Holy Spirit—springing up (John 4:14). We are a fountain from which spring the wonderful waters of the Holy Spirit. These waters come through and flow through us. We are shut up and we are sealed so that the pollution and the deceptive power of Satan cannot get into the garden.

You may be thinking, “That doesn’t happen to me. I find I have all kinds of problems.”

Maybe you do, as you look at things from human viewpoint, but God does not reckon that to be true from His divine viewpoint. You are



complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10). You are perfect in Him (Philippians 3:15*a*). As far as God goes, you are a spring shut up. You are shut up to your Source, and that is the Holy Spirit. As far as God goes, you are a fountain sealed (Ephesians 4:30; 1:13), and you are sealed unto God.

The Lord Jesus Christ wants to keep out the pollution, the sins, the self-condemnation, the heartaches, the griefs, the miseries, the wretchedness, and the blindness of the human heart. He has sealed you until the day of Redemption (Ephesians 4:30). You are a fountain sealed, but you are indeed a fountain. By the grace of God, out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38-39).

### *Chapter Three*

## THE RIVER OF LIVING WATERS

“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38).

The Bible says that a spring is bubbling up within you. You are a cup that should be running over. You are “shut up”—accessible only to God. You have His force. You have His life. You have His purpose. You do not have the world. You do not have conflicting interests. You do not have conflicting responsibilities. You are a citizen of heaven, betrothed to Jesus Christ, and He is your Source. Therefore, He has shut you up unto Himself. He has sealed you. He has enclosed you. You are His special treasure.

When you walk down the street, you may not feel special, but think of it! When you walk down the street, you are God’s particular treasure. You are one of God’s jewels (Malachi 3:17). You are one part of a people who have been cho-

sen—members of God's royal family.

Pay careful attention to this next statement. You are part of God's paradise—a part of God's royal garden. If we would consistently consider what Jesus has done and how He has sealed us and shut up our spring from the sources of the world, then we could enter into a different quality of life.

A marriage counselor and his wife came to me for counseling. They had been in a movement in the past that caused confusion to come into their hearts. As a result, the woman had nearly lost her mind.

God sent a tremendous anointing of His presence for this encounter. God revealed certain things about the kind of life in which this couple had been trapped. Marveling and amazed at the Holy Spirit's perception, they knelt down instantly. Later, this man got up, put his arm around me, and said, "All my life, I was involved with a group, but I never sensed the power of God like this. Can we get more of this life? Seems to me like this is the way it ought to be."

Both of them looked at Jesus Christ by faith, and they put their lives in His hands. Immediately, the woman's countenance was changed. She had a pretty face and pretty eyes, but her

appearance had been disfigured by the pressure of the atmosphere. She came in with a terrible countenance and left with look of joy.

As this marriage counselor and his wife got ready to leave, they said, "Pastor Stevens, I guess the Great Counselor finally caught up with us!"

They knew the Word of God. They came from good teaching. He knew the Scriptures. Yet this counselor said, "Here we are. We know the Bible. We have studied it hard through the years. We have been counseling others, but today, for the first time in all these years, I am sensing the power of God's love and God's life for me."

I raised my hands to heaven and said, "Lord, that is the very purpose of our ministry." Two people were delivered through the Word of God because we loved them enough to show them the power of the Word. Rivers of Living Water flowed out to them and washed away their confusion.

### *Fragrances of Truth*

"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” (Song of Solomon 4:14-15).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

“Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Here we have the fruit of the Holy Spirit revealed both in the Old and New Testaments. In Song of Solomon, frankincense speaks of God’s love. Spikenard speaks of God’s grace. The trees of frankincense speak of the Holy Spirit.

All of these spices are in the orchard, and all of them reproduce seeds of life—thousands of gardens, wells of living water, streams from Lebanon. Get the freshness! Get the renewal! Get the life! Get the aroma, the appearance, the wonderful scenery. Get the wonderful, poetic picture of the beauty of royalty.

God says that every believer can be a fountain—first a fountain sealed but now a fountain of gardens. Do you get the picture? We are fruit trees in the hands of God. We have the fruit of love, which is joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance.

Here we are, not just having this gift, not just having the fruit of the Holy Spirit, but as foun-

tains we are bubbling up. The streams are bubbling, and our garden simply becomes a fountain.

God wants us to be a spring shut up with *His* power, without the devastating doubting of the enemy. God wants the fountain sealed so we can receive from Him, the Source, and go out in streams to others.

### *Let the River Flow*

This beautiful picture goes along with John 7, “Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water. This spake he of the [Holy] Spirit.” In other words, this garden with its fruit now becomes a river, and that river is the purified Spirit of God.

Love goes through you. Joy goes through you. Peace goes through you. Longsuffering flows through you. Gentleness and goodness and faithfulness and meekness and temperance come down from this fountain that is sealed in the enclosed garden. Here it comes, flowing through your body, purifying every place that it goes. It comes from the throne of God (Revelation 22:1).

We who were polluted, we who were like a mud puddle, we who were nothing more than a smelly pond, all of a sudden we have become a

fountain, a garden. We are expressing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fragrance is beautiful. The life is changed. The character revealed is the character of God. We are a fountain, a garden, bubbling and springing and flowing with the purifying faith of God.

If you get a hold of these truths, you will not be a smelly, stagnant pond any longer. Your old, moody temperament will go. Your old resentment will go. Your old cigarettes will go. Your old social drinking will go. Your cursing will go. Your old discouraged spirit will go. Your old sad countenance will go.

Some of you wake up in the morning, and you have a right to be tired, but you look like somebody who was baptized in vinegar and sauerkraut and sour pickle juice. When you get to know the fountain in the garden enclosed, your life will change. Souls will mean everything. Love will be all for you. You will be trees of frankincense—not a tree but *trees*.

The God of love is in the reproduction business—many trees from the tree which Jesus Christ died upon. God died on a tree so every one of us might accept the Tree. And when every one of us accepts our Cross, the Tree where our sins were paid for, then we have a whole group

of trees that can make a difference.

Another reason that God shuts up these trees, the fountains, and the gardens, is so that everything inside will have to depend upon Him. If you are going to shut something up and seal it, you shut out the world. I am glad that God will not let me enjoy the world. I am glad that when I try it, I get miserable, and I don't want it. I am glad that God has sealed me so that when I go out on Him and try the world, I cannot stand its source.

God says, "I have you enclosed. You can try the world outside, but you will come back to Me. I have sealed you. You can try it but you will be back. I have your spring shut up. You can try it but you will be back. I've got you so alone that you have to depend on Me. If you don't believe it, go outside the enclosed garden and see."

### *The Spices Flow Out*

"Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out:" (Song of Solomon 4:16).

The "north" speaks of heaven. The wind is the Holy Spirit. I believe that this is speaking of the Holy Spirit coming inside and manifesting the fruit so that the wonderful aromas, the love,



the joy, and the peace can blow all over, everywhere.

Some of you, dear friends, are saved, and you have the Holy Spirit, but you need to have a gust of heavenly wind blow through your lives. You need to have the Holy Spirit blow that wonderful fruit on the inside. Many need to have a windstorm, in a reverent, sacred, wonderful way. We need to say, "Come on, north wind, I have it inside, but I can't get it out. Now blow it all over the place."

When we see one another, we ought to see the love just flowing. When we see you, we ought to see old Mr. Joy flowing. When we see you, we ought see Mrs. Peace flowing. When we see you, we ought to see Mr. Longsuffering flowing through trials and being patient. When we see you, we ought to see kindness and faithfulness and meekness and temperance and self-control. We ought to see the fruit of the Holy Spirit. You can tell me you have it, but I'd like to see the wind get all of it and manifest it all over the devil's backyard.

If I am going to amount to something, the Holy Spirit needs to take the fruit of the Spirit and blow it south—in the world's direction. The world needs to see this fruit! The world needs to

smell this fruit! The world needs to see a resurrected Christ come forth, a resurrection aroma come forth, resurrection power come forth.

“Blow upon my garden; that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.”

Now, read this carefully and you will be blessed with fantastic continuity: Two things God wanted: First, “Let the north wind blow,” and second, “Let the Master come in and eat of his pleasant fruit.” Once I give out the fruit of the Spirit, Jesus will come and bring some more. Then He will feast with me through our fellowship as I commune with Him and He with me (Revelation 3:20).

God cares for His garden. God cares for *you*.

## CONCLUSION

We can let Jesus come in and feast upon the fruit of our lives. We can enjoy a life that is pleasant. We can have a life where the garden is enclosed. We can have a spring that is shut up. We can have a fountain that is sealed. All we have to do is abide in what He has already done. Let's agree with God and go forth.

We can have a garden where Jesus Christ says, "That is My garden wall. So Devil, keep out, Sin, keep out. Judgment, keep out. Complications, keep out. Habits, keep out. This is *My* garden. Faithlessness, you keep out. That is My garden. Let it go. You cannot have it. It is My garden. And by the way, I have sealed it, I have enclosed it, and it is Mine—so keep out!"

Living the Christian life is entering into something that God has provided. It is experiencing something that God protects, and it is yours. It is saying, "Thank You, Lord, I agree." It is not struggling to keep something out. God

has enclosed it because of what Christ did on Golgotha, and He keeps His own garden.

God loves us, and He will show us where the Holy Spirit will grow His fruit. The spring is shut up. We can say, "Mr. Weed, Mr. Thistle, Mr. Thorn, you have to go too, because you see, the garden has been enclosed, and it is protected by the One who is the Creator."

Oh, I pray that many Christians today will trust God so that they can abide in this wonderful fruit garden of the Holy Spirit. We have a Body that prays. We are a happy church, but we are a serious church, too. We work hard and we work long hours. We weep much over souls, though we laugh and smile and we are happy because of love for each other. We have been forgiven, and we are enjoying this great garden God has given us.