

# The Faith Script

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*“For everything there is a season,  
a time for every activity under heaven...  
A time to plant and a time to harvest.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 (NLT)*

Prayer Wall

Summer in the Midwest, for many people, means gardens full of flowers, vegetables and more than one's share of weeds and bugs. Despite those last two, the anticipation of the season brings with it research, planning, and shopping so that when the time is right to plant, the projects can begin! Every year brings new challenges of too much rain, too little rain, too hot or too cold, wind, hail and the always present predators-in our case deer, rabbits, and raccoons. Still, the fruits of the harvest are generally so satisfying that we are willing to endure the obstacles to enjoy the freshness of home-grown bounty.

This year in our metro area, we've had record-setting rains, cold spells, tornadoes and flash floods. It certainly serves as a reminder that God is, indeed, in charge of everything and we continue to trust that He will see us through.

As I picked green beans recently, I got to thinking about how gardening is so much like faith. The garden grows best when we plant in good soil, care for it daily, and share the bounty. Our faith, too, requires daily care, Bible study, and sharing with those who haven't yet heard the Word. Matthew 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all nations..." NIV

Some of the green beans we planted this year turned out to be the "vining" variety, and required staking to grow and flourish. Our faith walk at times requires extra support as well, when we become discouraged, have health issues, lose loved ones or suffer other crises in our lives. That support comes from our brothers and sisters in Christ, being in God's word daily with our Bible reading, and participating in faith communities on a regular basis.

Our green beans have been planted in good Iowa farm soil and that soil is regularly fertilized and energized with compost to keep it full of nutrients for the plants. The weeds are pulled, and water is provided when needed if the rains don't come. So, too, does our faith need to be planted in good soil and solid Bible teachings, and nurtured on a regular basis by interaction with other Christians. Matthew 13:23 "But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it." NIV

Sometimes the choicest fruits of our gardening labors are "hidden" from view, low to the ground or tangled in the vines, and it requires extra effort to find them. But those choice fruits are worth it. So, too, our faith sometimes requires extra effort to grow- to study, to learn, to understand what it is that God has planned for us. And it may require waiting and patience. Gardening is like that; we wait for the warmer weather to get out and plant. We wait for the rain, the sun, the first seedlings peeking through the soil. We see the awesome rewards of our

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labors, when that tiny seed becomes a full-grown plant bearing much bounty. Each plant, to me, is a reminder of God and His power of creation. A tiny seed of faith was planted in each of us at one time, by someone, and nurtured and loved and fertilized over years, no doubt by many others. Each of us has this gift of faith to share with others, no matter where we are. On a daily basis we are given opportunities to be Jesus to someone in some way. As we've heard many times, we may be the only Jesus some people will see. We have such a big responsibility to do our part. Romans 10:14 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" NIV

My prayer is that each of each takes the responsibility to seek out the seekers, touch them with God's love and ensure that we have been a glimpse of Jesus to them at every opportunity each day of our lives.

Susan Lutz  
Altoona, IA

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One member has had trouble renewing their membership with the new database system. The quick links in the renewal notice should take you into your account and allow for a quick renewal. In this case their institution had implemented advanced security measures in their email system that prevented access to the member's CPFI account. If others are having this problem, please let the office know ([office@cpfi.org](mailto:office@cpfi.org)). We are working on a solution.

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