

The Bible Banner

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Blossoms of Truth

A few weeks after their wedding, a new husband decided he would like to purchase flowers for his wife. As he gazed at the selection in the store, he strained to remember which of the beautiful flowers she had declared to be her favorite. Unable to remember, but reasoning that their tastes were very much alike, he finally selected a bouquet of daisies, which was what he liked the best. It was not until then, that he remembered that these were also her favorite flower, and he then happily proceeded home to present the daisies to his new bride.

As we behold Jesus, our tastes and desires will also become like His. Our food, clothing, friends, desires and recreation, etc., will be exactly what He would choose for us. *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* 2 Cor. 3:18

Dandelion Petal Pancakes

2 cups quick oats (240g) 4 cups spelt or ww flour (480g)
1/3 cup flaxseed, milled (40g) 2 tsp salt (8.5g)
2 cups dandelion petals (30g) 2 Tbsp oil (30ml)
½ cup sucanat/ coconut sugar (113g)

Add nutmilk or water to spreading consistency (The mixture should be thin enough that the pancakes will be quite thin. This varies and I often have to add water again half way through making these.)

Pour batter onto a hot oiled skillet and spread thinly. Cook until a nice brown crust is formed. Flip and cook on the other side. (The trick is to spread them thin and cook them thoroughly.)



Quotable Quotes

"As we would examine the precious flowers, . . . delighting our senses with their loveliness and fragrance,

just so we should take the promises of God,

one by one, and examine them closely on every side--take in their richness,

and be soothed, comforted, encouraged, and strengthened by them." {That I May Know Him, pg. 213}



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Consider the Lilies

As the car pulled to the edge of the road, I wondered what my husband was doing. But I didn't have long to wonder, as he soon appeared at my door and presented me a bouquet of the brightly colored "black-eyed susan" flowers that grew abundantly by the roadside. I was delighted, of course, for there is not much else like a bouquet of flowers to brighten one's day. As I think back, many happy memories are connected with flowers—I still have happy memories of teaching each of my four children how to smell the flowers as they toddled down "the rose walk". But flowers are useful for much more than memories, for Christ taught valuable lessons using the flowers. Luke 12:27 records, *"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."*

These words are full of meaning. Jesus here contrasted the natural simplicity of the flowers of the field with the artificial adorning of raiment. He declared that the glory of Solomon could not bear comparison with one of the flowers in natural loveliness. By the things of nature, Christ illustrated the beauty that Heaven values, the modest grace, the simplicity, the purity, the appropriateness, that would make our attire pleasing to Him. But we can learn many more lessons—lessons of faith, endurance and practical godliness from the flowers. Examine under the microscope the smallest and commonest of wayside blossoms, and note in all its parts the exquisite beauty and completeness. So in the humblest lot true excellence may be found; the commonest tasks, wrought with loving faithfulness, are beautiful in God's sight.



Jesus continued, *"If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?"* Luke 12:28 Consider the humble dandelion. Its little unassuming yellow flowers brighten the lives of those who appreciate this minute message of God's love. Although it is small and often hated by industrious landscapers, it contains many lessons for us. As with many other flowers, a closer look at the dandelion blossom provides a glimpse into the perfection of the Master Artist who is faithful even in that which is least.

However, those glowing yellow blossoms are admittedly hard to get rid of. What is interesting is that sometimes it seems that the more mankind tries to get rid of dandelions the more they grow. One reason for this is the dandelion's long roots. *"A large dandelion may have a tap root that reaches three feet in length...Any piece of the dandelion's root, if left in the ground will grow a new plant."** This is why if you try to kill the dandelion by cutting it off, or even chopping up the root, you just end up with more dandelions. Like the dandelion, we too should be *"rooted and grounded"* in the truth. For 2 Cor. 13:8 says of the truth *"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth."* And Acts 5:39 reiterates, *"But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it..."* Roots are important for the Christian. We may learn the secret of a holy life, from the water lily, that, despite growing in some slimy pool, surrounded by weeds and rubbish, strikes down its channeled stem to the pure sands beneath, and, drawing thence its life, lifts up its fragrant blossoms to the light in spotless purity.

As the year passes, I enjoy a variety of flowers from daffodils to daisies. In fact, it is hard to pick a favorite. This also is a lesson for us. *"From the endless variety of plants and flowers, we may learn an important lesson. All blossoms are not the same in form or color. Some possess healing virtues. Some are always fragrant. There are professing Christians who think it their duty to make every other Christian like themselves. This is man's plan, not the plan of God. In the church of God there is room for characters as varied as are the flowers in a garden. In His spiritual garden there are many varieties of flowers."*--Lt 95, 1902. {1MCP 54.2}

But let's go back to the humble dandelion. Although often misused and abused, the dandelion doesn't fight back, it just keeps "letting its light shine" in the best way it can under the circumstances. For example, a dandelion growing in the middle of a bush may grow a stem two feet long. But *"Dandelions... where they are mown regularly, will grow their leaves absolutely flat and the dandelion blossoms will grow almost below the surface of the ground. Same plant, same stem, yet it grows differently according to its environment."** This is a lesson in adaptation to circumstance, yet without compromise. The Scriptures counsel, *"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself"* (Prov.22:3) *"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."* (Matt. 10:16) This also is an example of graciously accepting reproof from God and changing our former course. Prov. 6:23 states, *"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:"*

One can hardly look at the delicate flowers without smelling them. Some you must smell "up close" while others, like the lilac, perfume all the air around them with their fragrance. Each of us should train ourselves to shed fragrance in our sphere just like the fresh flowers. Be fragrant in your words. Remember that they are either a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. (2 Cor. 2:16) The fragrance of a cheerful disposition and Christ-like character will impart light and joy wherever we may be.

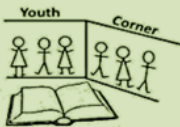
When Christians follow the Pattern, their presence and influence will be to their associates as the fragrance of the sweet flowers, because they are linked to God and heaven, and the purity and exalted loveliness of heaven are communicated through them to all that are brought within their influence.

Even though many flowers lose their beauty and scent when they die, their work is not yet finished. Many a child has delighted in the extra-large puff of the salsify flowers or enjoyed the pop of the touch-me-not or the puff of dandelion seeds to blow. The flowers' final job is to spread the seed. Just think how soon the gospel would be spread to the world if we had "dandelion puff missionaries." *"They [dandelions] grow on every continent and every island of the world"** and for good reason-- those little seed parachutes are absolutely amazing. *"The pressured silk will stay aloft as long as the humidity is less than 70%. But when the humidity gets higher than 70% (like just before it rains), then the silk parachute will fold up and the seed will drop to the ground.... The seeds may be dropped in the briny ocean and soaked for up to 28 days and if carried ashore they will still germinate and grow... Dandelion seeds can easily lay dormant for 30 or 40 years before springing into life."** Likewise, the Christian, whether martyred or dying a natural death, may even in death spread seeds of the gospel. Rev. 14:13 says, *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."* This author states it well, *"Christ's true witnesses are never laid aside. In health and sickness, in life and death, God uses them still. When through Satan's malice the servants of Christ have been persecuted, their active labors hindered, when they have been cast into prison, or dragged to the scaffold or to the stake, it was that truth might gain a greater triumph."* {Acts of the Apostles, pg. 465}



With so many awesome lessons to consider from the floral world, it is no wonder that Solomon described Christ, who gave His life for us, by saying *"I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."* (Song of Solomon 2:1) Why not follow His advice and *"Consider the Lilies"* today?

* From [The Gospel According to a Dandelion](#), pg. 6, 14, 18, 30, 32



Briar Patch or Flower Bed?

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thess. 5:18

One night, after receiving a letter from a friend who was discouraged, a woman dreamed an illustrative and interesting dream. She dreamed that she was in a garden, and the stately form of one who seemed to be the owner of the garden was conducting her through its paths. She was gathering the flowers and enjoying their fragrance, when her friend, who had been walking by her side, called her attention to some unsightly briars that were impeding her way. *"Look at this unsightly shrub, this deformed tree, that poor stunted rosebush,"* said the friend. There she was mourning and grieving. She was not walking in the pathway, following the guide, but was walking among the briars and thorns. *"Oh,"* she mourned, *"is it not a pity that this beautiful garden is spoiled with thorns?"* Then the guide said, *"Let the thorns alone, for they will only wound you. Gather the roses, the lilies, and the pinks."*

This dream illustrates quite well the experience of many Christians. Many, walking along the path of life, unwisely gather together all the unpleasant recollections of a past life -- they talk about their mistakes and failures and disappointments and hardships, until their hearts are overwhelmed with grief and discouragement.

But there are two different ways of looking at things. Some people complain because there are thorns on the roses, while others praise God for putting roses among the thorns. Have there not been some bright spots in your experience? When you look back into the chapters of your life do you not find some pleasant pages? Are not God's promises, like the fragrant flowers, growing beside your path on every hand? The briars and thorns only wound and grieve. So why not claim the promises in God's word today? Instead of focusing on the thorns-- gather the roses, the lilies, the pinks-- remembering to be thankful in everything for this is God's will for your life.-- (Dream story compiled from Steps to Christ, pg. 116 and Mind, Character and Personality, Vol. 2, pg 107)





A Bouquet for Health

Few people realize the medicinal value of many common flowers --elderflower, chamomile, echinacea, calendula and many more. But today we are going to learn about just two amazing—but often little appreciated—flowers, and the plants they grow on—red clover and dandelion.

“Roses are red, violets are blue. If health is important, red clover’s for you!” Red clover is, by far, my most used flower remedy. Every year I pick its purplish-pink blossoms and dry them to preserve them for red clover tea. The first crop is preferable, but if you don’t collect enough in the first round, the second crop had better be secured. I often mix red clover with raspberry leaves to make a good, simple, wholesome drink. Because *“It is a powerful blood purifier,”* as well as being nutritive, I add red clover to my herbal tea concoctions no matter what my patient has. In fact, it is so nutritious that a study on red clover was



recently conducted *“to evaluate the potential of these plant species to alleviate malnutrition...Trifolium [clover] species were found to be a rich alternate source of essential nutrients with concentrations of elements being in decreasing order of Ca > Mg > Fe > Mn > Zn > Se... [Calcium, Magnesium, Iron, Manganese, Zinc, Selenium] and with adequate levels of lipids [fats] (4.2 to 8.6%), proteins (35.1 to 45.4%) and carbohydrates (26.7 to 47.0%). Trifolium species were found to be rich in Se [Selenium] (contributing greater than 516% toward its RDA) with T. dubium having a concentration... higher than Brazil nuts.”*²

Red Clover is actually part of the leguminous pea family. It is indigenous to Europe, central Asia, northern Africa and is naturalized in many other parts of the world.” Here is a brief synopsis of some of its benefits. *“Red Clover has antispasmodic and expectorant effects and also*

*promotes the skin's healing process.”*³ I personally have used it along with fresh air for a case of whooping cough in an infant. Some of its additional benefits include, it *“reduces menopausal symptoms, helps maintain bone strength, improves cardiovascular health, lowers the risk for certain cancers, treats skin Inflammation”,* and *“fights respiratory infections”*⁴

I, myself, have experienced some of the hormone balancing effects of red clover. *“Red clover contains gentle hormone-balancing plant compounds called isoflavones. These natural chemicals weakly attach to estrogen receptors in the body’s tissues. And they mimic the effects of estrogen. Isoflavones are also adaptogenic. They sense what the body needs, and adapt their response. If estrogen levels are low, they act like estrogen. But if estrogen levels are too high, they take up space on the receptors. They block stronger estrogens.”*⁵ That is what I most appreciate about many of God’s simple remedies—they work in the way that is needed.

*“Internally, red clover is considered among the very best anti-cancer herbs.”*³ In fact, years ago, a distant relative of mine acquired cancer in his eye. The doctors wanted to cut his eye out but he refused. After observing one of his livestock that got rid of its cancer by eating in a clover patch, he decided to implement the clover remedy for himself. His cancer completely disappeared. Perhaps it is cases like this that remind us why you will find red clover as an essential ingredient in almost all herbal cancer preparations.

Modern cancer research is finding an amazing remedy in another blossoming plant however—the dandelion.

One study published in Evidence Based Complementary Alternative Medicine in 2011 found that Dandelion Root extract actually worked better than pharmaceuticals for melanoma. *“In this study, we show that dandelion root extract (DRE) specifically and effectively induces apoptosis [death] in human melanoma cells without inducing toxicity in noncancerous cells...treatment with this common, yet potent extract of natural compounds has proven novel in specifically inducing apoptosis in chemoresistant melanoma, without toxicity to healthy cells.”*⁶

Another study focused on leukemia also found *“efficient induction of extrinsic cell death by dandelion root extract in human chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML) cells.”* The article stated that *“The results from this study indicate that natural products, in particular Dandelion Root Extract, have great potential, as non-toxic and effective alternatives to conventional modes of chemotherapy available today.”*⁷

Besides protecting against cancer, dandelion *“Promotes Liver Health”* and *“Offers Gastrointestinal Relief”*⁸ The Natural Remedies Encyclopedia declares that additionally *“Dandelion improves the functioning of the pancreas, kidneys, spleen, and stomach...dandelion is especially important in promoting the formation of bile ”* and *“it cleanses the blood and the liver. It is especially good as a blood cleanser for diabetes, dropsy, and eczema.”*⁹ Most often the root or the juice from the leaves is used, but in the case of skin, the stem also apparently has medicinal properties that help fight skin infections. *“The milky white substance that you get on your fingers when you break a dandelion stem is actually great for your skin! The sap of a dandelion stem is highly alkaline, and it has germicidal, insecticidal and fungicidal properties.”*¹⁰

Continued on pg. 5

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

Bumblebees live everywhere except for most of Africa and Australia. Like their relatives the honeybees, bumblebees feed on nectar, using their long hairy tongues to lap up the liquid. Nectar comes from inside flowers.

With its big furry body, tiny wings and round shape, the bumblebee doesn't look like it would be able to fly easily, but Jesus made the bumblebee so that it can fly in a special way with its flexible wings. When Jesus comes again to take us to heaven, we will be able to fly too. (Isaiah 40:31; 1 Thess. 4:17) I'm looking forward to that, aren't you?



MEMORY VERSE:

Galatians 5:14

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.



Christian wanted to do something nice for somebody. So he picked a bouquet of pretty flowers and took them to an old lady who was sick and had to stay home. It made Jesus happy that Christian had been nice to the lady, and the lady smiled at Christian when he brought her the flowers.



Carnal's mother took him to visit another lady who was sick. But Carnal did not want to be nice. He was naughty and pulled up all the flowers in her flower bed. Jesus was sad that Carnal had been naughty, and Carnal got in trouble for ruining the lady's flowers.

*****Continued from page 4*****

Much like red clover, dandelion is very nutritious. *"Dandelion leaves, or 'greens' are perhaps more nutritionally potent than the lettuce you have in your crisper. They contain just as much iron as spinach, and four times as much vitamin A (beta carotene) as the popular salad green. One cup of dandelion also contains 535% of the recommended daily allowance of vitamin K and is a good source of vitamin C, calcium, iron, fiber, and potassium."*¹¹

Even the blossoms appear to contain one hard-to-find vegan nutrient—because an article from Michigan State University entitled "Dandelions for food" even states, *"The flowers are a good source of antioxidants as well as vitamins A and B12."*¹²

Because both these flowers are so prolific and thus hard to patent by man, may their healing properties give glory to the Master Creator and Physician. For *"God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."* 1 Cor. 1:27-29
Why not eat a bouquet for health today?

1—Natural Remedies Encyclopedia, 6th edition, pg. 143 2-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29708825> 3-The Physician's Desk Reference for Herbal Medicine, pg. 633
4- <https://draxe.com/red-clover/> 5-- <http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/6-hormone-balancing-powers-red-clover> 6-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21234313> 7-
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22363452> 8-- <https://www.livestrong.com/article/22865-benefits-dandelion-root/> 9-- Natural Remedies Encyclopedia, 6th edition, pg. 127
10-- <https://draxe.com/dandelion-tea/> 11-- <http://naturalsociety.com/dandelion-benefits-root-leaves-flower-edibles-heat/> 12-- http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/dandelions_for_food

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Study to Shew Thyself Approved— A Biblical Bouquet

Rose --“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.” Isaiah 35:1,2

Forget-Me-Nots – “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.” Isaiah 49:15,16

Solomon’s Seal (I Kings 3:5-12; 4:29) — “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5

Daylily — “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Cor. 6:2

Pearly Everlasting-- “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” Isaiah 40:8

Passion Flower — “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Touch-Me-Not -- “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Cor. 6:17,18

Morning Glory — “Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.” Isaiah 58:6-8

Lady’s Slipper-- “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

Sunflower-- “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.” Malachi 4:2

Black-eyed Susan — “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also....But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”. Matt. 5:38, 39, 44, 45

Tulips (two-lips) – “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.” Psalm 89:34

Shepherd’s Purse – “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.” John 10:14 “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.” Isaiah 40:11 “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32



Little Runner’s Health Tip

Buzzy the Bee likes red clover and dandelion flowers. Red clover and dandelion are good for boys and girls too.