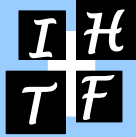


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FLOWERS AND FAITH

1 – Consider The Flowers

Matthew 6:28-30 (NKJV)

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

It is a sight to behold flowers in full bloom. We recently saw an incredible array of orchids at a botanical garden. It is estimated that there are around 25000 to 28000 species of orchids and each one of them requires delicate care to grow beautifully. Growing these flowers is an optimistic and hopeful act, one that requires faith and care, a trust in God's ultimate provision and power, from seed planting to the flowers blossoming. Scripture tells us that if God cares wonderfully for these plants then He will certainly care for us. We are therefore called upon to have faith in Him.

2 – Substance of Things Hoped For

Hebrews 11:1-2 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

11 Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

A life of faith in God requires patience and trust. Without faith it is impossible to honor or please God. Life is full of ups and downs and it takes patience to continue to hope that our God will lead us beside still waters, make us lie down in green pastures, refresh our soul, lead us in paths of righteousness for His name sake, and guard us from fearing evil even in the valley of the shadow of death. If our God can care for flowers and make them blossom in such beautiful array, then He can surely take care of us. When life gets tough, may we look around and see the beauty of flowers and remind ourselves of Jesus' encouragement to us to have faith in the God who takes intimate care of flowers and remember He can do more with and for us.

3 - Take Away

In the face of life's hardships, may we remember Jesus' encouragement to us to have faith in the God who takes intimate care of flowers and remember He can do more with and for us. Without such faith, it is impossible to please God!