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## YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM A GARDEN

You can learn a lot from a garden. You plant the seeds, and then you have to wait. They do not spring up overnight. Some take much longer than others and some never grow at all. Years ago, I had a garden in the country. Now, I have never been what you would call a “country girl.” I grew up one block from the downtown area of my small hometown. You could walk to a store, or to the beach, or the library. We walked to school in the good weather and the bad. Snow or rain, we trudged through. It was the way of life in a small town. Country life was not something I enjoyed, so when we lived in S. Alabama, out in the country, one mile “beyond the end of the world,” it was a new experience.

Our neighbor was determined to help us plant a garden. I had grown tomatoes but never a large garden. This neighbor offered to plow up our land. We wanted a small area plowed, but he insisted on plowing an acre, assuming that we were going to plant it. My husband planted all kinds of things. Okra, butter beans, corn, peas, squash, watermelon, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Within a very few days we noticed the footprints of deer in the “garden.” They came in and ate a lot of the seed that had been planted. So much for the watermelon. Then the garden started to grow, but we had an unusually rainy summer and the garden became a field of muck. Oh, yes, there were lots of things growing. There were so many peas that we could not keep up picking them.

Because of the “muck” we couldn’t get to the okra, and they grew to be over 18” long, like swords. They were not edible, but they made a good conversation piece. We never got any squash or cucumbers because the rain molded all the plants. Meanwhile the corn was growing, but what we didn’t know was that there had been so much “poison” put on the land for years before we lived there, that it caused the corn to be deformed and inedible also.

Needless to say, it was quite an experience. I learned that I was not much of a farmer, and that you should never plant more than you can take care of. The peas – well there were so many, but all the neighbors had gardens and did not want any more!

What am I saying? I am saying that you need to fine out in life what works for you. Do not let others influence you to do what you aren’t called to do. I am much better helping people “grow their lives” than I am in growing veggies. I will leave that to those that are called to do it.

Find your call and go with it my friends. You will only be happy in doing what God has planned for you. Remember Cinderella? Her shoe did not fit her sisters’ feet. So, find the shoe that fits you and be the child of God that God made YOU to be!

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