

## Where's My Rose Garden?

by Carolyn Webb

Like everyone, I have those times in my life when I need a little attitude adjustment. Recently I tried reading a book that claimed if we just had the right attitude, God would bless us in this life beyond our wishes. A positive attitude will bring about God's blessings - it didn't feel very true to me. Sure God says "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7), but did that mean life would be a bed of roses? Then, as I was washing dishes and thinking about the difficulties our family was facing, the following popped into my head:



"I beg your pardon; I never promised you a rose garden. Along with the sunshine there's got to be a little rain sometime."

Some of you may recognize these lyrics from a song written by Joe South and made a hit by country singer Lynn Anderson in 1970. I was just a kid when that song came out and I hadn't thought about it in years. While it was written as a love song, now I was hearing it as a call back to reality, leading me to look into what God really says about the tough times of life.

God didn't promise life would be a rose garden. He created this world to be a perfect garden, but that was ruined by Adam and Eve's actions. Now we all work hard, deal with illness, disappointment, and death. It's all part of life. Life is full of troubles. So what does God say about troubles?

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV)

The troubles of this life are only temporary and they work to bring us closer to God and prepare us for eternal glory. If this life were perfect would we ask, seek, or knock? Would we look forward to spending eternity with God in heaven? Not likely. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13 NIV) That is the comfort that keeps me going day to day, not the promise that this life will be a rose garden.

God of all comfort, comfort us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. Amen.

---



**Season:** Pentecost

**Video:** 2. Women Mentoring Women

**Devotions:** 18. PIL

54. Temptation

150. Are Your Roots Showing?

155. Threadbare, a Tale of Perseverance

**Prayer:** 4. Dear Victorious Lamb of God, I woke up to this new day of grace and...

**Super Girl:** 2. The day this picture was taken started out almost like any other...

**Scripture References:** Isaiah 40:29, 31; Jeremiah 45:3; Romans 7:22; 2 Corinthians 4:1; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:14

---

## PERMISSIONS POLICY

A WORD for Women is the sole owner of all content on this website. Please read our policy for use of our material.

### No Permission Needed

Please feel free to link to this site.

Re-posting is allowed when using partial content of material with a link to this website

Please use our content in non-profit publications such as church newsletters, bulletins, bible studies and bible conferences. It must have this copyright notice: "Used by permission from [www.awordforwomen.com](http://www.awordforwomen.com)".

### Permission Needed

You need written consent to:

Use for commercial, for-profit purposes

Alter or change any content

Repost content in its entirety

### Dig Deeper

*Dig Deeper* is a cross-reference section for every devotion. To use this feature, reference the numbers next to the titles starting on the Archive Page of our website: [www.awordforwomen.com/archives](http://www.awordforwomen.com/archives)

Or you can use the search bars in the website.

A WORD for Women is a ministry of © 2016 by Salty Earth Pictures - 36 S 3rd St W, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Contact Us: [info@awordforwomen.com](mailto:info@awordforwomen.com)

Website: [www.awordforwomen.com](http://www.awordforwomen.com)

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.