

Blossom and Bloom

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"And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight in the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."

-Anais Nin

Why is it so difficult for us to break out of our shells and grow? There comes a point and time in everyone's life that growth is inevitable (if you're a normal person!). To succeed, we must grow. In order for growth to happen, changes must take place within us.

I think back to a time, not so long ago, when I grew spiritually. I'd been praying for a while for God to help me to grow and change. I grew so tired of going through the motions, and following the same path every day of my life. I grew restless within. I was so unsatisfied by staying the same way I was, that I became desperate for God to change me. I needed to know that I was a vital part of the church, that I wasn't just merely existing.

I began to pray for guidance and direction in one certain area of my life. I felt that I had a talent, which had been placed upon me as a child. I knew that I could take this talent and use it to reach to others. I began developing this talent. But the more I did, the more I felt like I was just spinning my wheels. I felt like I was getting nowhere with it.

I prayed for direction. I prayed that God would help me to become focused on what He wanted me to do with this talent. How could it be used for Him to receive glory and honor? How could I use it to reach to someone? What way could I use it for it to be a productive tool for me to use for the kingdom of God? Instead of focusing on my talents and abilities, I finally gave it to God and said, "What do You want me to do with it?" That became a turning point.

I found focus and direction that week. After studying, praying, and putting a lot of thought into it, I realized why I felt so scattered before. My main goal was only to accomplish something for me. I left God out of the equation. When I reached a point where I could give it up to God and trust Him to use it as He willed, then I was able to find my direction.

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I haven't seen great and mighty things come of it--YET! But I know I will. And if nothing else, I know that I will be happier for it because I am following after the heartbeat of God. I listen to His voice, and not my own.

Yes, I may be a tiny red blossom, just breaking forth from the green bud, but I know in time that I will spring forth into full bloom, a perfect rose, complete in God's will.