



May 2010
From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck

Unity Church of Bakersfield
 1619 E Street, Bakersfield CA 93301

www.ucob.org

Church: 661-327-8614 or
 Home Office: 661-391-0302

Dear Friends,

I've just finished building planter boxes and planting four fruit trees in my front yard. It wasn't long before the neighborhood kids gathered around to see what I was doing and asking what kind of trees did I plant. The trees are apple, pear, cherry, and peach. And in each of the four planter boxes I have planted seeds for spinach, beans, cucumbers and strawberry plants.

Everyday for over a week now the kids keep returning to see if any fruit has been produced. I keep telling them that it will take some time for the trees to establish their root system in the soil and become stable before they begin to produce good quality fruit. In the meantime I have to make sure they are well watered, get good fertilizer, and check for pests from time to time.

Creating a garden or orchard of any kind takes time, patience, and perseverance. Sometimes the things we plant won't do well and we have to make changes. Instead of vegetables maybe flowers will do well in the area we choose to plant in. And in the case of my front yard it seem trees and bushes do better than last years vegetables.

I love working outside with the soil. I feel close to God when I'm using my energy to co-create abundance, whether it's flowers or fruits and vegetables for our table or sharing with the neighbors.

Jesus often used parables to make a point with the people of his day. One of my favorite parables is the *Parable Of The Sower*. As a kid growing up on a farm in Niagara County, New York that one hits close to home with me.

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and

immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Matt 13:3-8

Jesus is talking about the ideas we carry around in the gardens of our minds, the ideas we plant in the soils of our consciousness. Sometimes they fall on a well worn path, harden from years of use by thousands of others. Those are the ideas we keep trying to make happen time and time again, but they just can't take root. They are the ideas of others and not really our own.

Then there are those ideas we just toss out among the rocks and stones of life to see what happens, not really caring where they fall or if they have enough of the things necessary for survival. We believe we don't have what it takes to make sure they will grow and thrive. And what about the ideas we share with others who choke them out with their negative attitudes like thorn bushes. No matter how many great ideas are given to us we keep asking others what they think and they become the weeds in our lives.

Finally we realize that if our ideas are to have a chance to grow and produce abundantly after their kind, they must be planted in good soil-life affirming, positive and practical. We come to understand that we must prepare the soils of our consciousness with affirmations that will nourish and sustain our ideas until they can establish a good root system for growth.

This activity takes time, patience, and perseverance if we wish to have abundant blessings of every good kind from the effort and energy we have put forth. Take time to listen to the "still small voice of God" whispering ideas for your garden of abundant blessings. Then plant them in good soil and
 wat
 ch them
 w. gro

Abundant Blessings!
 Rev. Chuck