

# We Are All Flowers in God's Garden of Love

by Marilyn Spaw Krock

In a child's chubby little fist, a dandelion, given in love to Mommy, is probably the most precious flower on earth. What one person might call a weed, becomes a treasure! Flowers are a symbol of love! Flowers are a gift of love - from God! Some of the most wondrous qualities of flowers are their magnificent array of colors, shapes, and sizes. God certainly used a lot of imagination in designing such inspiring gifts for our appreciation. Can you visualize the world without flowers?

Part of the magic of Spring is the sudden emergence of color all around us. The dullness of winter is dispelled. Landscapes that were only green and brown take on a vibrancy with red, yellow, purple, orange. All the colors of the rainbow are found in flowers. Take time to appreciate fully the variety of color.

Look at the sizes of flowers. Some, like a sunflower, are quite large. Others are very, very tiny. A magnifying glass helps to observe their delicate shapes. Some flowers grow alone, some come in clusters. Some are fragile, while others are strong. Some have thorns to protect them from harm.

Are there similarities between people and flowers? Spend time examining the differences between flowers, always recognizing the beauty of each flower. No matter what flowers you put together, bouquets are always beautiful, especially when created by a child! How boring it would be if all that existed were roses, or marigolds, or daisies. God knows variety is best. People are all different, too. Every person has a beauty all their own. They are an unrepeatable image of God. Each person has gifts and talents to contribute to the world. Together, all the differences make the world a more beautiful place.

Then consider the fragrance of flowers - roses, gardenias, carnations, jasmine! Each scent is distinct and individual. A whiff can bring a flood of memories. I wish I lived in Hawaii. I would wear a lei all the time (I don't have allergies). Once in a while a particular flower's scent reminds you of Grandma's garden, or your childhood home.

Flowers have a purpose, also. Watch fruit trees as they start to bring forth blossoms. Help a child to watch blossoms turn into fruit. A miracle of life is taking place. Someone has to be there to point it out to children. Nature walks are one of the best ways to encourage children to explore the changes taking place in nature. Give them a small bag to bring home their treasures.

Pressing flowers is easy to do, and preserves the beauty longer. Place the flowers and leaves you want to flatten between two pieces of waxed paper. Put the paper between two heavy books and wait two to four weeks. After the flowers are pressed, they can be arranged as a window hanging. Press the waxed paper with a warm iron. The wax melts, sealing the picture. Frame with construction paper.

Another easy method is placing a piece of clear Contact paper on a table, remove protective paper, leaving sticky side up. Press flowers and leaves onto the adhesive. When picture is complete, cover with another sheet of clear Contact paper, or plastic wrap. Place the work of art in a sunny window! Write "Thank You, God, for flowers!" around the frame!

Let your beauty shine. You are part of God's bouquet!

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