

I love walking through a garden, looking at the tremendous beauty of the flowers. The variety of colors, shapes, sizes of blooms and heights of stalks fascinates me endlessly. The different species blooming at different times throughout the growing season is a vital part of this experience.

The seasons are a cyclic thing, and so each year as we go through winter I pray that I will get to see another spring here on this earth. I look forward in anticipation to the first blooms of the year that emerge from the barren ground. I love to examine the intricate structures of the beautiful flowers, but don't like when they fade, turn brown, and die. So, I take a lot of pictures to remember what they looked like in their prime.

But what will correspond to this in heaven? What if there were flowers in bloom all of the time: Do I really need to see the cycle of growth from leaves to stem to bud to bloom? I think I will want to see something like that. I don't believe that heaven is a static thing, but there will obviously be a certain timing and rhythm – as eternal as this can be.

We know that there is some sort of logical sequencing there that corresponds in a spiritual way to our concept of time. How could it be wonderful if nothing ever changed? Of course, we know that God's character never changes¹, and that he created our physical time, but there is an order (a logos) beyond it that represents spiritual life. Perhaps it will look like an ever-changing patchwork of space and time that will remind us of our gardens.

It is clear that God made a beautiful garden for man to begin his life². Later, Christ commented on the splendor of the flowers even after the fall of mankind, stating that God would clothe us even better than that³! I know that He was talking about taking care of our souls, but I think it also points to the glory of heaven – even our own transformed selves. The Book of Revelation speaks of streets of gold, and enormous jeweled gates⁴, but I am more uplifted by the idea of an eternal flower garden of epic proportions!

Thinking of the cyclic nature of the earthly seasons, we know that winter is associated with dying, and there will be no dying in heaven. Perhaps in heaven there is a different cycle that would display some type of continual progression of creation (or birth). It could be a rotation of colors and types of flowers); spring would not be a re-birth, but some kind of continual progression of creation (birth) in an ever-expanding way. I look forward to an eternal spring-like beauty of Goodness that is completely beyond my imagination.

1. see Psalm 55:19, James 1:17, and Hebrews 13:8
2. Genesis 2:8
3. Matthew 6:28-30
3. Revelation 21:21