



Hope

I've been thinking about how our life may be like the crocus. We were planted here for a purpose by the Master Gardener. A gardener places a bulb in the ground and covers it gently with good soil. He expects it to grow and bloom in the early spring. Like the crocus bulb, we may pass through a mild winter or a very cold, hard winter. We may feel our life is buried and no one, not even The Gardener, remembers we are here. We may feel the pressure of the rain-soaked soil or the load of snow or even ice. But His life inside us is stirring hope and causing us to grow. Suddenly our stretching leaves and bud break the surface and we see the bright light of the sun. The joy of

that breakthrough is worth all the time buried and growing.

Our new birth, in the beginning of our walk with God, is like this budding of the crocus. Then in our walk with God, there are times and seasons that feel like we have the weight of winter on our backs, and nothing is happening. But when we breakthrough, we see He has grown us during that dark time. Finally, there will be a dark time at the end of our life. It may be short or long, but we will burst forth when our time here is finished. He will keep His promise to us to live in His 'dwelling' forever!

Pause: Take a moment now to quiet your mind and body. Breathe slowly and offer this time to be with God.

Pray: Jesus, open my eyes to see You alive, present, and powerful today. Spirit, infuse all I say and do with the hope of resurrection life.

Read a portion of Scripture:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” 1 Peter 1:3-5
NIVUK

Think about this portion:

1. When did God give you this hope?
2. What did He do that made our hope possible?
3. Consider what kind of hope God has given you. What does it mean to have a ‘living’ hope?
4. How is your inheritance described?

Pray:

- Thank God for His work in your life and the hope He has planted in your heart.
- Pray for others you know that need to know the hope God gives us at salvation.
- Ask God to show you how He would have you share hope with those you meet today.