



SEEDS

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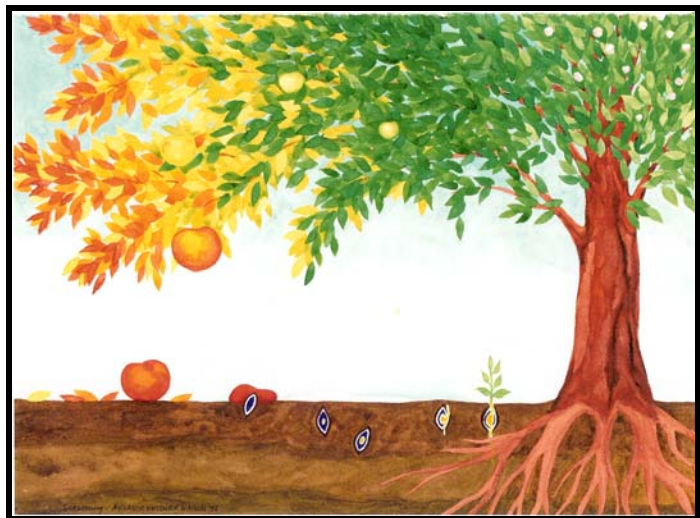
Seed Bearing

by Jan Wood

Seeds emerge when something else dies or gives way. The seed pod pops *after* the flower has faded. The seed brings new life *after* our eyes have turned away. Several years ago when Melanie Weidner painted the meditation, *Unless It Dies*, I was struck with the discrepancy between my own ideas of fruitfulness and God's perspective. When I think of myself or my ministry being fruitful—I am invariably picturing the ripe apple hanging deliciously from the tree. Nutritious. Pleasurable. Perfectly ripened. Totally delicious. Yet I could instantly see that the miracle of replication and fruitfulness is not the fruit on the tree or in the hand, but that rotting apple on the ground. Oh my.

I am privileged to be in the midst of outbreakings of new life all around me. In GOOD NEWS, in my community of faith, in my family, in my work and ministry. I am noticing that all these wonders have something in common: *something had to give way before the new could emerge*. This seems to be true for our personal journeys; it seems to be true for churches, businesses, organizations and nations as well.

Sometimes we are forced into seed bearing by catastrophic circumstances, tragedies, box canyons of our plans and dreams. Through pain and anguish we find that Life comes from dyings. We discover that we truly are awash in the Presence of God who is vested in resurrections and transformations.



Unless it Dies by Melanie Weidner

But you don't have to be in trauma or middle-aged-and-aging to live in the wisdom of seed bearing. We all are faced with change, endings, losses and letting go. They come when we face circumstances that alter our comfort zones and habits or play havoc with our inner scripts. They come in those everyday textures of giving up control over events or outcomes. They come as we lay down the expectations that rule our lives with such an iron grip. They come when we step out of old patterns and experiment with the new. When we liberate our responses from the grip of our wounded ego. When we let ourselves live into our "right size" rather than chasing the mirage that bigger/more is always better. When we step out of the scripts of our culture. When our hearts murmur, ". . . nevertheless, thy will be done."

Seeds that bear fruit are small and inconsequential to the naked eye. Other stages seem far more glamorous. There is excitement in the times we step into the new with fresh green sprouts of anticipation. There is rich contentment as we learn to have patience with the parts of our lives that are still in progress like little green apples. There is a celebration of spirit with the parts of our lives that are fully edible, delicious fruit. But I invite you into an amazing joy: the joy of those regenerative moments, when our letting go releases Life into holy ground. And God's will gets to be done on earth as it is in heaven.



Jan Wood is both an Associate and the founding Executive Director of GOOD NEWS Associates. Her ministry consists of speaking, writing, spiritual direction and organizational/business consulting. She is the author of *Christians at Work, Not Business As Usual*. She resides in Seattle and can be contacted at: janwood@goodnewsassoc.org

You can see more inspirational art by Melanie Weidner at www.listenforjoy.com

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