

Foundations For Living

Laying Foundations Today For a Brighter Tomorrow

FOUNDATIONS NEWS

JUNE 2016

SUMMER'S NEW LIFE

by Linda Ensley



Late spring and early summer are abounding with new life. Flowers lift their heads to the sunshine and dot our yards and walkways. The smell of newly mown grass gives a freshness to the air. Lilacs and Lily of the Valley offer up a sweet fragrance that can only be found once a year.

As the weather becomes warmer, vegetable gardens begin to grow and blossoms form as we eagerly await the maturing of the beans, tomatoes, squash, peppers and peas. The birds wake us at dawn with their cheerful songs as they begin their day searching for food and water and making nest homes for their soon-to-be families.

Little creatures begin to appear out of no where. Baby rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks and even deer invade our yards. So we put up the fencing to keep them from our vegetables and go on to be entertained as they scurry and run gracefully from place to place.

All of this unfolds before us with little effort our part. We can add water when it does not rain. We can plant seeds in the ground. But we cannot do anything to speed up the growth process.

Each seed must die before it can

germinate. It must die before it can become new and fulfill its purpose.

Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives." John 12:24 NLT

Just as it is in nature, it is the same in our lives. We cannot step out in a new direction until we turn from the direction we have been going. This could be in relation to a marriage, a job change, a move or a change in life style.

Adolescents go through a similar process as they stretch their wings to gain an identity of their own and strive to be independent of their parents. As they move into adulthood they must say "goodbye" to many of the things they loved as children.

Paul revealed this change in his own life: He writes:
"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. But when I became an adult, I set aside childish ways." II Corinthians 13:11 NET

Paul's life changed dramatically when he met Christ face to face. He could not follow Christ and also follow the traditions of the Pharisees. Jesus made him new. He had to turn from his former ways and step out on a new path, following Christ.

Can you remember a time when you had to identify with that kernel of wheat that had to die in order to live? The Lord knew this would be hard for us, so He shows us in His creation an example of His transforming grace. The life of every butterfly is a beautiful picture of a transformed life. The caterpillar spends its early life crawling around the ground, looking for food. Even though it may have some colorful fuzzy markings, it is in constant danger of being stepped on or devoured by a bird or other creature. Then it creates a cocoon, hides for a while, and is born again as a beautiful butterfly, free to fly and praise its Maker by its beauty.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17 KJB

Jesus told Nicodemus: **"I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3 NLT**

This summer take some time to let go of something old and embrace the newness of life that God has for you.

