

THE AMAZING AMARYLLIS

Have you ever tried to grow an amaryllis? I have. It took me several years of “waiting” to get it right. Waiting? Years?

A few weeks ago, we heard the sermon ... “The Lord is My Strength”. It had 3 sections:

- 1) Admit your need,
- 2) Go to the Word, and here it is
- 3) WAIT ON GOD.

As I reflected on this sermon ... I began to think on things that I have to wait on. Who likes to wait on anything? Waiting in line. Waiting for supper to be ready. Waiting for grandkids to arrive. Waiting for the next season. How I long for the Christmas season and then I long for Spring and sunny days! What are some things that you have longed for or still longing for?

Most of us want our requests to God to be done overnight. Think about people in the Bible who waited on God ... and there are lots of them! But what they waited for took a long long time. The things they waited for - was for their own good and more importantly for God’s glory. We’ll talk more about their stories as the lessons unfold.

Waiting simply takes time. Whether we’re trying to get our body in shape or wanting that dream job. I’m guilty of the first ... I want desperately to get my body in shape (ugh). I have a sweet tooth and it shows, my clothes don’t fit like they used to or not at all... sigh. It’s my own fault I know. I’ve been lazy since I retired from being a soccer referee 6 years ago. I don’t walk let alone run like I used to and I don’t eat or sleep properly either. But after hearing this sermon a few weeks ago ... I’m encouraged and I’m going to ask the Lord to help me start a new thing and I’m looking forward to a new year. Aren’t we all looking forward to a new year? So getting back to the waiting.

Psalm 27:14 Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

So what does the amaryllis have to do with waiting? Hear me out. I’m totally not a plant person. I can’t keep live plants around because they die. I don’t know much of anything about flowers in general but I know which flowers I do like. I like red, coral, and ivory flowers the best and some white flowers too. But as far as how to grow them or keep them alive ... not so much.

My sister (who is very much a gardener) sent me one of those amaryllis “kits” in the mail years ago for Christmas. I thought ... hmmm really? Doesn’t she know I can’t grow anything? This bulb is going to be totally on its own. As I remember it ... it didn’t grow. I mean how could it? It’s a dried up old looking bulb. The pot was plastic and there wasn’t much soil. I followed the instructions (yes I needed instructions). I put it in the pot and watered it and tended it. I held onto hope when there seemed no logical reason to hope any longer. I waited and watched for the “rising from the dirt” like waiting for the “raising from the dead”. Nothing. That figures ... I said to myself. I’m no gardener. To top it off ... she sent me a picture of her amaryllis ... tall and slender and in bloom! Sigh.

So what did I learn from this experience (or should I say ... what SHOULD I have learned)? Have you ever doubted or asked questions of God that never received an answer? I can now reflect on those times ... when I prayed and prayed and instead of hearing a “yes” or a “no,” there was only silence.

There were times in my life when ... I thought my dreams and wishes *would never come true*. Maybe you can too. Getting that degree in college, starting that first job, finding the right person to marry, trying to start a family, raising kids and then watching them leave the nest ... scary stuff. But good things take time don’t they? College takes years, getting settled in a career takes years, dating takes years, starting a family and raising children takes years....

Ok so let's get back to amaryllis. The next time I tried to grow an amaryllis (my husband got me another kit for Christmas) ... it did grow but sadly it didn't bloom. By the way ... I'm married to a gardener and that explains why our yard looks so good. So I must be doing something right this time ... but I'm must also be doing something wrong too. At this point ... I was just plain discouraged. I figured either I just can't grow a plant or ... those bulbs you get in those kits ... just aren't any good.

I gave up on the whole idea of trying to grow a plant of any kind and decided to leave "gardening" to gardeners. Then one year (2015?) I saw these amaryllis bulbs growing in water at Kroger. Ureka! I'm sure I can grow an amaryllis now. Sure enough ... not only did it grow but it produced 6 blooms. Yahoo!. I can do this! The waiting is over. Well, I reasoned to myself, that bulb did have a head start ... growing one on my own from a dead looking bulb may be a whole different matter.

Guess what? I couple of weeks ago I found a dried up ugly looking amaryllis bulb in the garage. I have no idea how long it's been out there. It had brown nasty looking roots on it but it had a tiny bright green stem poking out the top. Hmm ... that gives me an idea for a Bible Study lesson.

The amaryllis ... the amazing amaryllis. What can we learn from the amaryllis? Basically, we can learn about waiting and that's the subject of this series of SPRING lessons.

Along with the lessons ... I will be posting pictures of the progress of my amaryllis ... it will be exciting to see if it grows and whether or not it blooms. At first I cut off all the brown roots except 2 that were white. Isn't that what you're suppose to do? I put it in the vase with some clear glass bead fillers. After a day or two I noticed the stem had turned brown. My husband is sure that I killed it.

Here's what it looked like on Dec 27, 2020. You can see that it has turned brown ... sigh.



I've been taking pictures of the amaryllis each Sunday. So next week I will post what it looked like after 1 week. And I did start losing weight this month. My secret? I have a chart that I fill out each week of what I actually eat. The chart has a list of things that I can have from before breakfast to after dinner including 4 cups of water every day. I lost 30 pounds in 6 months time following this plan years ago so I'm going to follow it again. How am I doing? Well, I am following it pretty good and I've toned down my sweet tooth but not completely. I had hoped to lose 5 pounds / month. I've lost 3.5 pounds in January. Hopefully, I will continue to lose next month (with God's help). I know I can't do this on my own. It's a new year and as the amaryllis grows ... I hope to start shrinking!

Next week we'll start our study on the AMAZING AMARYLLIS ... what can we learn?

Waiting on an amaryllis to grow is like waiting and depending on God's Promises (and not other people or circumstances). How appropriate for the world that we are living in today right?