

*"I Will Heal their backsliding, I Will Love them freely: for Mine Anger Is Turned Away from him. I Will Be as the dew unto Israel: He shall grow as the lily, and cast forth His roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and **His Beauty Shall Be As The Olive Tree**, and his smell as Lebanon." Hosea 14:4-6 KJV*

There is nothing quite as pretty as a lily; as fruitful and sturdy as an olive tree; and nothing quite as fragrant as cedar. We use cedar to mask bad odors and to infuse our clothing with scent. The roots of a cedar are deep and strong, the tree, tall and straight. Lilies are the preferred decoration on the day we celebrate Life Everlasting. How many wonderful uses are there for oil of the olive? We enjoy the olive itself for tasty garnish to many dishes. Olive trees grow to be very old and still bear fruit. Some olive trees are more than four hundred years old. Although gnarled, if judiciously pruned, they never fail to produce fruit. Their roots go deep to find water and their branches provide welcome shade in the dry and thirsty landscape. Those who repent and return to the Lord Are Assured of His Welcome and Love. He Will Bless them exceedingly above all that they ask or think. God's Word Says, *"Call unto Me, and I Will Answer thee, and Shew thee Great and Mighty things, which thou knowest not."* Those who do will be a comfort and life sustaining presence to those around them and their company will be a pleasure. They will remain steadfast in the storms and droughts of life, because their deep roots will be drawing on the Water of Life. *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He Is, And That He Is A Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the Things Which God Hath Prepared for them that love Him."* What you are seeking is the prize of your labor. God, Himself, Is the Reward of them that diligently seek Him. If you seek Him for any other purpose, it is not Him you seek!



GETHESEMANE OLIVE TREE

A loving heart for Him alone,
Is what the Lord requires of one,
As yielded fruit from bearing tree,
It pleases Him to be with me. –CGP

Men have searched for centuries for some evidence of God's existence. They tirelessly toil to prove that there is some other point of origin, yet, to date, all they have are "theories." They need look no further than their own garden. The flower is living proof. What other purpose do the colors serve? The buzzing bee only sees the ultra-violet spectrum and has no need of the rich colors that present themselves to our view. The theories have no place for delicate beauty. Only the "fit" survive. Where is the survival strength of a blossom? Beauty is certainly not required. God has given us a glimpse of Glory in every bloom that graces the earth. Oh, I know the atheist would argue that the flowers are integral to a plant's survival. That still doesn't allow for the multicolored displays exhibited, unless you acknowledge the Hand of the Creator, and His Desire to Manifest Himself to His Creation. It's one thing to create something. It's quite another to have your creation be aware of, and enjoy your company. Why do you love God?

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with Joy Unspeakable And Full Of Glory: Receiving the end of your Faith, even the Salvation of your souls." 1 Peter 1:8-9 KJV