



# The Garden View

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## Chosen For a Purpose

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Each year we try to have a small, humble garden and each year the first thing we have to consider is what we want in it. We usually go with tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, and yellow squash but there are literally thousands of different types of plants we could choose from. Since we are by no means master gardeners, we pick a few that we know we can manage and that we will have a purpose for.

Each of these we choose has different needs in terms of where they should be placed within the garden and what type of support they need (such as cages for tomatoes or a fence to climb for cucumber vines). We know the cucumbers need as much water as possible while the squash will quickly rot if we overdo the hydration. We come up with the best fencing solution to keep our family dog from helping himself.

We don't suddenly walk outside and dump the random seeds on the ground, instead, we prepare the way for the fruits of our labor, creating a space, making it safe and nutritious, and making adjustments as we go through seasons of drought or rain or overzealous toddlers who haven't discerned the right shade of ripeness yet.

Each of us has been planted in God's garden. He has chosen us and called us by name for a specific purpose that He is well capable of managing. He prepares the way for us, He gives us what we need when we ask for it (and sometimes, like squash, we ask for less water by beginning to rot), He protects and He cares for us in all ways. There are many references in the Bible that remark on God's ability and willingness to care for all the peripheral things around us in nature, when we are the fruit He is really growing. How much more care, then, He would give to us.

Isaiah 43:1-3a (NIV)

"But now, this is what the Lord says—

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

3 For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;"

