



The Garden View

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What Is Inside a Seed?

If someone gave you a handful of random seeds, could you identify what plants they came from? Some seeds are pretty iconic; sunflower, for instance, we would probably all know anywhere. Pumpkin seeds are recognizable, too, as we scatter them about during jack-o-lantern carvings, but what about less common plants? Would you be able to imagine the thick red skin of a cayenne pepper just by looking at its seed, or the majesty of a one hundred year old magnolia tree from its beginning bulb?

I have to think that the first, most ancient gardening took place quite by accident and with much surprise as people realized these tiny, seemingly unimportant by products were actually the key to yielding a consistent harvest. As humans, we are pretty good at seeing things as they are in the moment, but seeing things beyond, into what they can become, takes a special sort of vision.

After generations of established gardening and farming, we can trust, now, that our seeds will mature into each new phase and we've become accustomed to their ability to transform into something much bigger and totally different than what they originally began as. We may not be able to identify each plant by name, but we know for each individual seed, something bigger than itself always lies ahead.

Luckily for us, God has the vision to see what is inside each of us, too. He put it there after all, sowing it with deep and deliberate care. No matter where we are in our development, no matter what we may look like on the outside, He sees our potential from beginning to end, straight through to our hearts. He sees it even when, maybe especially when, we have trouble believing it ourselves.

1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV)

"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

By: Bonnie McClure

