

POSSIBILITIES

Romans 15:13 *“May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

The weather for the past several days has been amazing! It's hard to remember that it's still winter and not spring. It is going to rain again (sorry to remind you) and the skies will be gray but these kinds of days bring the promise of more to come. The trees are starting to have signs of early leaves and my flowering plum trees are bursting forth with pink blossoms. Spring is definitely right around the corner. Another sign of spring on the way are the late winter/early spring flowers. Crocus, primroses, and daffodils are poking their heads above the ground. Spots of color are showing up where only mud and dead plants were just days ago.

Matthew 10:16 *“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as **innocent as doves.**”*

Seeing the daffodils coming up reminded me of a story I told last year about my granddaughter, Leila. She turned 5 the end of January so she was just newly 4 when this took place. She and I were taking a walk down the street on a day much like these we're having now. Children have the ability to make us slow down and notice things we would normally walk right by so we were talking about all the things we saw lying in the street and in bare flower beds along the way: Rocks, twigs, old leaves, and daffodils. I said, “Leila, look at the beautiful daffodils” and she replied, “Grandma, those aren't daffodils. They're possibilities.” Now, I'm a grandma, so I think my grandchildren are pretty special (probably the most special ever) but when she used the word “possibilities” I was surprised, to say the least. I said, “Leila, do you know what a “possibility” is?” and she looked at me and said, “Yes. They're right there!” The tone of voice and look on her face conveyed her surprise that I didn't know what a “possibility” was. There was no point in asking any more questions about what she meant but it certainly opened my eyes to her world: plainly, I saw daffodils; she saw possibilities. Think about winter and how long it can seem at times. Sometimes we wonder if it will ever end and then along come the daffodils, or should we say, possibilities: Possibilities, hope, promises of things to come, and options of seeing more than gray days and dead plants.

Mark 10:14-15 says, *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to **such as these.** I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”* As we grow older and wiser (?), our tendency is to begin to see our Christianity and all it entails through eyes that grow darker. Our experiences, schooling, and society in general cause us to look through dirty filters and see things from a jaded perspective. Our vision is cloudy, not clear, not childlike and innocent. Not accepting, as children are. When God says He loves them, they believe it, no questions. They believe what they read in the Bible; no doubts. When He tells them to be obedient, they are, no arguments. We, on the other hand, have to have a reason, an explanation; we have to understand and make sense of the things of God before we can take one hesitant step forward. If we come against brick walls, we stop and try to figure something else out rather than just trusting God to do what He says He will do. Let's back up and take a fresh look at our Hope, Who we place our trust in, and what He wants for us. Does He want us to look around and only see daffodils or does He want us to see “possibilities”?

Blessings on your week!

Georgia