

Laurie's Message for Friday April 24, 2020



Good Morning Apostles Family and Friends!

The proverb "April Showers bring May Flowers" has been repeatedly coming to my mind this week. And, I find it fitting not only because of the rainy forecast this week, but also because I am beginning to get a bit anxious for the pandemic to be over and a time when we can safely resume some social gatherings to begin. Are you feeling the same way?

Due to my analytical nature and the number of times this phrase came to mind, I decided to look up the history of the proverb. It likely originated in the United Kingdom or Ireland where the month of April tends to be especially rainy because of the position of the jet stream. The cooler climate also tends to push back the appearance of many flower species to late April or early May. (I am so glad that we see blooms in March and early April!) The proverb stems from a poem written by Thomas Tusser in the mid 1500's where he wrote "Sweet April Showers, Do spring May flowers." Again in 1886 a writing stated, "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers and June bugs." I could not find who authored the 1886 writing.

Regardless of who coined the proverb, repeating the phrase has always been a simple way for me to try to avoid the blahs of rainy weather, turn my thoughts around and focus on sunshine and better weather (or better days) ahead. It serves as a purposeful reminder that even the most unpleasant things or experiences can bring about very enjoyable things. All we need is a bit of patience while the bad weather or unpleasantness pass. However, having patience is a lesson in and of itself! What is that phrase – "Some of life's greatest treasures come to those that wait."? I remember how difficult it was for my sons to have patience when they were young and I asked them to be patient or sit still for a moment while I made them dinner or they needed something and I was in the middle of a task and could not instantly produce what they wanted. I have learned that as an adult, patience is even harder sometimes because we often must be patient for a much longer period! Like waiting months or years for a job promotion, saving a little each month to be able to buy new furniture or a new car. And – we need to endure this period of waiting without getting angry!

The same is true during this time of riding out the COVID 19 pandemic. As impatient as I get with the social distancing requirements, postponement of church gatherings and closure of businesses, I absolutely do not want us to return to some assemblance of “normal” too soon and have a second wave of COVID 19 in our area. This threat alone helps me be patient. And although dismayed to have to wait, there is nothing to be gained by being angry about it.

As written in **Romans 8:25** *“But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”*

The reality of Jesus’ death producing new life also parallels with the thought of sunshine following a season of gloom and sadness. He patiently endured the events leading to his capture and his crucifixion to resurrect and bring life ever after. What a lesson in patience, strength, and endurance this teaches us!

So as we experience the various setbacks, disappointments and hinderances during this time of crisis, let remember the following: Every dark cloud has a silver lining, there has never been a wind that did not change directions and April showers bring May flowers!

Dear Lord, thank you for the glory and lessons brought to us by sunshine and rain. Please help us learn the virtue of patience during these times of closure and social distancing that so often bring frustration, loneliness, and despair. Bless those who are ill and give them the strength needed for recovery. Help those who are in need financially and lead them to find means of providing shelter and food for their families. Please keep those working amid this pandemic safe while they selfishly place themselves in vulnerable positions to assist others.

Amen.

Stay safe and well everyone and I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Blessings,
Laurie

P.S. Did you know that Scientists note that temperature is much more important than rainfall in determining when a particular flower will bloom? When the average temperature begins to approach spring-like weather, flowers will begin to bloom, regardless of exactly how much rain they received in April or the month before they begin to bloom. Food for thought!