

# Ouse Valley Filling Station

Dear Friends

## **Blessings from the Ouse Valley Filling Station Team!**

We do hope that you are keeping in good health. Here is a further reflection for your perusal during this time. May it inspire you to seek the Lord with a passion and renewed zeal.

### **The Garden**

*'You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain.'* Song of Songs 4:12

*'I am a garden enclosed. A locked garden. A fountain sealed. I am Your resting place.* Lyrics by Misty Edwards

My garden is beautiful at the moment. It is wonderfully enclosed. It has a pond. It is peaceful and reproductive. Seeds germinating, plants growing, blackbirds fledged...

The garden can only be like that through loving, tender care. It takes time and discipline. Keeping the pests and predators at bay, filling up the pond when it's running dry, keeping the plants watering, pulling up the weeds, mowing the grass.

### **What is the analogy?**

I am the Lord's spiritual garden.

Our inner self must to be well tended. There is discipline ... and regular pattern.

Our spiritual temperature needs to be right. We need to stay steady, with a burning fire for the Lord Jesus and His righteous ways. We must not allow ourselves to fall into lukewarm.

*'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot, I wish you were either one or the other!'* Revelation 3:15

Our inner spring needs to be refilled by the Holy Spirit every day, like a well which springs up, ever flowing.

The predation of the enemy and His schemes must be resisted. The weeds have to be pulled up before they take hold. Confess your sin regularly! Take a stand with the Word of God when the enemy presses you hard.

Our inner self must become a pure and sanctified place for the Lord's glory to dwell.

How do we do this? We must have a regular pattern of time with the Lord. Come rain or shine!

We find a quiet place. Then it is time to be creative with the Lord and to edify (build) ourselves. We can sing, pray, pause, read, listen ... Why not aim to reading through the bible on one year? You will be amazed at how much you learn ... even whilst reading the more difficult parts of the bible. Sing some songs you love from Christian artists or create your own ... Intercede for others. Meditate upon the Lord.

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With many blessings and love in Jesus Christ  
Stella Hart