

Meditation October 5th

I enjoyed last week's meditation from Cath about trees. Which has prompted these further thoughts.

We have recently planted several trees in our garden. We can now look out of our sitting room window at a silver birch and a Himalayan birch. They have beautiful bark, and they are extremely graceful trees.

Yesterday the wind was blowing and the rain was lashing down. The saplings were bending lithely, their leaves fluttering in the wind. It struck me that they were not resisting the elements, or fighting the wind! It almost looked (this may sound a bit fanciful) as if they were revelling in it!

Further away in a neighbouring field, a decades old lime tree stands firm, rooted deep, leaves and branches also swaying in the wind. It is not far away from Stocksfield burn, and as such is a living illustration of Psalm 1:

“Blessed is the man who...delights in the law of the Lord,
And on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
That yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.”

Trees do not choose where they are planted, or the condition of the soil around them. Trees have to simply 'be' where they are planted! I am challenged to learn from them.

Hopefully as responsible gardeners we have provided our young trees with good supporting stakes, and suitable sites in which to grow. To the soil around our new trees we have added some mycorrhizal fungi. The world of fungi is another fascinating area, about which I have recently been learning. Some of you may have come across 'Entangled Web' by Merlin Sheldrake, currently on my bookshelf waiting to be read. The trees and the fungi are in a symbiotic relationship, and the very fine filaments of the subterranean mycorrhizal fungi help the tree find water, absorb nutrients and protect them from harmful bugs and toxins. Such an amazing attention to detail by our creator God!

If God pays this much attention to the wellbeing of trees and other plants, he must surely also focus lavish attention on us. I am encouraged by the following verse, reminding us of God's care.

Matthew 6 28-29 (NIV) See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.

The word translated 'See' above is translated in other versions as Consider. The Greek word katamanthanó means to observe, examine carefully, learn thoroughly, consider well.

God is the Gardener who has placed us each in our situations. And is with us in the different seasons of our life. Trees need the changing seasons to produce flowers, fruit, seeds and autumn leaf colour. Indeed around us now the leaves are changing colour, and soon the full glory of Autumn will be here. Let's consider well the trees and flowers of the fields, and God's care for them and for us.



The new Trees in our garden