

From Withered to Revived

I winced as I looked at my six-pack of wilted impatiens. Leftover from my butterfly garden, they had sat under the tree for two weeks waiting for me to find a garden bed to squeeze them into. Originally bursting with color, the now shriveled,

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d little signs of life. I picked them up to toss them into the trash.

“There’s no way they’ll ever recover from this,” I thought. As I opened the trash can, something made me stop. What could it hurt to plant them in the bed out front? It took only minutes to plant the bedraggled plants and water them.

A few hours later I opened the front door to walk out to the mailbox. A flash of pink caught my eye and I stopped

astounded. The withered flowers were completely revived, their leaves and blossoms plumped out nicely, the picture of health. I couldn't believe it. I had been certain they were beyond hope. All they needed was good soil, a thorough watering, and some time to revive.

"It's the same for people too," the Holy Spirit whispered to my heart. I mulled that thought over and let its truth sink in.

There was a time in my life when I've felt like those flowers. For months after my infant daughter died, I was depleted, devoid of energy, joy ... life. I wasn't sure I would ever recover from the blow of losing her. I barely went through the motions of life. My friends and family stuck by me and kept praying. Several months after she died, I joined a Bible Study Fellowship group and God started slowly putting me back together. Over the course of the next year, I was planted in the fertile soil of my group and watered by God's word and the testimony and encouragement of wise women. At the end of that year, I had revived.

Maybe you're there today. Perhaps you think life is over for you. Too much heartache, too many mistakes. Your blooming days are behind you. I'm here to tell you that if you plant yourself in the fertile soil of a healthy church or Christ-based group and water yourself with His word, you *will* recover. Expose your wounds/sin to the healing light of God's truth and love and give yourself time to heal and hope.

Get ready to bloom again. God is going to do a mighty work in

