

THE POTTED PLANT

A small plant burst from the soil where it was planted in a pot. Upon reaching up, the plant saw the sun and enjoyed the light and warmth that came from it. Soon after, someone came and poured water to replenish it. The plant was joyous and happy in its pot for some time as it enjoyed the warmth from the sun and the nourishment the water provided. As the plant turned its attention from the sun, it began to look around. It noticed trees that were tall and boasted of their stature. It saw squirrels scurrying around playful and free. The plant became discouraged thinking how much better it would be to be able to be free.

“I do not like my lot in life! I do not like where I was planted! I did not choose to be placed in the situation! I hate that I was forced into this position! I don’t look near as good as those trees! I’m stuck here and can’t play like the squirrels! This is not what I want! How I wish I could be like the trees or the squirrel!”

On a day of utter discouragement, storm clouds appeared. The rain began to pour, and it became darker. The plant became afraid, but was picked up and taken inside next to a window. The plant looked out the window as the trees boasted in the storm. Without warning, a great wind arose, and the trees began to strain. The trees buckled and, with a mighty fall, collapsed to the ground. In surprise, the plant began to appreciate the comfort he enjoyed in the pot. After the storm cleared, the plant was taken back out and set in the sun.

A few days passed, and the squirrels began to play. Once again, the plant was discouraged. It wished to play like the squirrels did. The plant dreamed of the ability to be free from the pot and do whatever it wanted. Suddenly, a hawk dove at the squirrels and grabbed one in its sharp claws. The other squirrels scurried away in fear as the other disappeared from sight. The plant realized that had it been able to play with the squirrels, the plant may have been the one carried away by the hawk. Again, the plant began to appreciate the comfort he enjoyed in the pot.

More time passed and the plant became a flower, and it began to realize how great life was in its pot. The storms didn’t destroy the plant nor its pot. Terrible creatures didn’t swoop down and snatch it away. The sun gave it warmth and comfort. There was always water provided when it needed nourishment. From all this, the plant had prospered and grown into a beautiful flower.

“I choose to look up to the light and be content with where I was planted. It has kept me comfortable and safe from harm! I don’t need to be strong like the trees, for I am strong by the one who cares for me. I do not need to join the squirrels, and do as I want, for I have been provided for in every way. I’m thankful for where I am!”

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity: in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me