

## Polly's Pondering

I was reading an article by B.J. Funk entitled "Hear the Corn Grow". That is right, did you know that corn makes a sound when it grows? I wasn't sure I believed her so I instantly looked it up on-line and guess what. It really makes a sound. Just as B.J. Funk said, "the growth of corn involves millions of tiny breakage events. These breakage events trigger the plant to rush to "repair" the broken regions. As the plant continues breaking and repairing, the plant is able to grow taller and taller." Just in case you want to hear what I am talking about here is the link: [LISTEN AND WATCH CORN GROW](#)

About now you might say, interesting but where are you going with all this. For some people Christmas is not an easy time of year. In fact, it can be difficult and even depressing. Broken places of life can seem to be more in focus, painful in intensity, and emotionally overwhelming at this time of year. And that can be difficult. All the songs that speak of joy and peace can often make those places of unrest, and struggle seem so crushing. My own Mama struggles around this time of year. Yet, ironically, it seems to be to be the most fitting time of year for these struggles. You see Christ didn't come into a perfect world. He came into a world full of brokenness. He came into a world full of longing with hope for a better day. One where the heartbreaking losses of this world would seem to make more sense or at least find rest and purpose. I wish I could make things better for those who really struggle. I wish I could repair their broken hearts, restore all that was lost, rebuild that which has fallen apart. But alas, that is not mine to do. All I can do is point you to the One who has collected your tears, heard your cries, protected your heart, carried you through, and prepared a place for you where there would be no more sorrow.

That is what this time of year is about. Bringing the hope of a better day into our world, to remind us that death does not have the final say. That brokenness can be used for a greater good. It is reminding us that as we grow and time moves forward there is healing happening. Those little places of brokenness are being restored, those painful places where we have been stretched have brought us to new stages of growth and life. If we could hear the sounds of our tiny fractures and see the evidence of our growth then just maybe we could embrace the One who is behind the healing.

Time doesn't move backwards. We cannot undo the past. But we can look for the evidence of continued growth and give thanks for that. And we can embrace the future knowing that God has not abandoned us. And we can reach out to those people of compassion, whom God has surely placed in our path.

If you are struggling to relate to this message, then just maybe, you are one of those with compassion, who is able to reach out with the love of Christ to bring Peace, Hope, Joy, and love into the life of another. Remember that Jesus told us the Greatest Commandment was to Love the LORD our God with our whole heart, mind, spirit, and strength just before he reminded us to love our neighbor as our self. So, it turns out we are, indeed, our brother's keeper. Let's keep our brothers well.

Send a card, express forgiveness, make a phone call, deliver a meal, purchase a Christmas gift for their child, listen to their stories, offer prayer, walk with them through the breaking and repairing...be creative and fear not for the Hope of the World has come, Emmanuel.