**‘Vegetation’**

***Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day.*** Genesis 1:11-13 (NASB)

Again God speaks. The earth He has called from out of the waters is the first to receive a Word to bring forth something from out of it – vegetation: plants and fruit trees. The key to their existence are the seeds they will have in them – seeds after their kind. Without each species of plant producing its own seed it would exist only for the life of that plant. The seeds insure that each plant will regenerate for many generations – after its own kind!

I can’t help but marvel at the many varieties of plant life that exists throughout the earth. It is amazing! God called tiny ground cover plants into being as well as the towering sequoias and everything in between. There are plants that live in swamps and marshes and those that thrive in deserts. Some plants bloom only in the morning and some only at night. There are also plants that follow the movement of the sun throughout the day.

And then there are the seeds. Some are flat. Some are round. Some are rough and bumpy and look rather strange. Some are so tiny that they are hard to see, much less plant, but there are others, like the peach pit, you can’t miss! Regardless of the type, style, and variety of each plant’s seed, every single one of them has within them the correct genetic code for that specific plant. I am guaranteed that if I plant bean seeds, I will harvest beans. This is a good thing because when I take the time and effort to plant a garden, I want what I’ve planted to be what I get at harvest time. No surprises.

Though the words above do not mention another benefit of plants and trees, I can’t help but mention it here: Plants produce oxygen! Plants, through the process of photosynthesis, take carbon dioxide from out of the air and convert it to sugars for themselves and oxygen for us and other living things. The process is more complex than this, but what we exhale (carbon dioxide) plants inhale *(in a manner of speaking)* and use. And what plants exhale (oxygen) *(in a manner of speaking)*, we inhale and use. [Scientists are probably cringing at this description, but it works.] It’s a wonderful mutually beneficial relationship which God created between green plants and air breathing creatures. Isn’t God cool?

*‘You can count the seeds in an apple, but you can’t count the apples in a seed.’*

*Kathleen*