

## *Flower Seeds by Naomi Johnson (1900-1984)*



1905

*This is a talk that I've been giving for many years, and I've been asked to give it again today. It's been a long time since I've done this, and many of you weren't even born. I didn't make this up. I heard it here at church when I was girl many years ago. It didn't mean too much to me then but it's come to mean more to me as I've grown older.*

*Now, I've got here a pack of seeds. You gardeners in the crowd like Spencer know that a pack of seeds doesn't look like much when you get them, but what you want isn't the seeds but what the seeds will become. These are flower seeds. I'll plant them in the ground this spring and by summer I'll have big beautiful flowers. Those flowers don't look anything like these seeds all little and brown and wrinkled, and unless you are an experienced gardener like Spencer you wouldn't know from looking at the seeds what type of flowers they will become. I only know because here's their picture on the cover. I looked through the covers of the seeds until I found the type of flowers that I liked, and that's the ones that I bought.*

*The Bible says that we're like those seeds. We aren't what we will be one day, and you can't tell from looking at us now what we're going to be like. It says that we can't imagine what God has in store for us. That's the good part. But the part that I never did like when I was a girl was where it said that unless the seed falls into the ground and dies it can't grow. When I was real little I didn't understand much about that, but as I grew up I saw more and more people that I knew die. I knew that they went to heaven and had new bodies and everlasting life, but I didn't like it when they had to fall into the ground first.*

*As I grew older and I saw my parents age I used to pray to God that I would die before they did because I couldn't bear the thought of losing either of them and going on without them. I prayed that a lot, but God didn't answer that prayer, and I eventually lost both of them. That hurt a lot, but the more I thought about those Bible verses and the seeds the easier it got to accept. I know that they're in a much better place and that they've got new and better bodies, just like the difference between flowers and the seeds, and that some day, probably before most of you, I'll die and I'll be that like seed that gets planted and falls into the ground, and I'll have a new and glorified body and I'll be with my parents and grandparents and everybody else that I've known.*

*So when you look at a pack of seeds, remember that we're now like those seeds, only a small bit, a little piece of what we'll become; and when somebody you love dies, try to think that they're growing into a beautiful flower. They wouldn't want to go back to being a little seed and if you could see the flower that they are you wouldn't want them to go back to being a seed again. And when you get old like me, you'll understand that you are just a little seed waiting to become a beautiful flower. That makes it easier to get old and wrinkled and shaky. I look a lot more like a seed now than I did when I was a little girl, and I hope that I'm more ready to become a beautiful flower than I was then.*

*So remember to read your Bible and come to church and learn because that will help you be a better seed and a better flower. Remember this little pack of seeds and remember that you're only a little wrinkled seed for a little while, then you'll be big and beautiful and all grown just like the flower on the picture. Anyway, that's helped me face losing people and getting old, to try to not worry about the little seeds inside but to keep my mind and attention on the pretty flower on the package, tomorrow's promise that's just waiting to get out.*



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