



*It's so nice to
get flowers
while you
can still
smell the
fragrance.*

Last Saturday I went to a wedding (My nephew Joseph married Victoria). Before the wedding I walked around my brother's house and noticed this flower trying to get my attention. I pause and take a few photos then rush to the church for the wedding. Three days later my Aunt Myrtle Lacy passed away. As I heard of her passing I remembered this flower. I am not sure why, I just did.

There are always flowers at funerals. Why do we send flowers when there is a death to someone we care about? I am told that even in primitive cultures they associate death and flowers. Why? I am sure there are several good psychological reasons for this behavior, but on some level, I am sure we are simply making a statement... We are saying that this person was special to me. "I love you and I want to show you". And one of the last ways we show our love for someone is to bring flowers.

Flowers, we always associate them with special occasions. Valentine's day, birthdays, anniversaries, first dates, proms, weddings and funerals; all these special days we associate with flowers. Why? We are showing the people we care about that we love them.

How sad that we have limited our expressions of love and appreciation to these "special" days. How many times would we get flowers if they were only limited to Valentine's

day, birthdays, anniversaries, first dates, proms, weddings and funerals? Don't the people in our lives deserve better than that? Why don't we get creative and think of other ways to show the people we care about that we love them?

My mother passed away in 1988, she was 45 years old. She was diagnosed with cervical cancer about a year earlier. She fought the disease and did everything she could to try to stop it. About a month before her death, while traveling to get another radiation treatment she made a statement to me that still shakes me to this day. She told me that she felt cancer was kind. She said that so many people never get the chance to tell the people they love good bye before death takes them. And she was blessed to have had a whole year to tell the people she loved what they meant to her.

Today, we have the opportunity to look the people we love in the eye and say, "I Love you"! We can write a note, we can make the phone call, we can visit, we can even bring flowers. Today, I can; But I am not sure about tomorrow. So, today, tell them...

Something to think about:

- You can never speak a kind word too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.
- I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness that I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.
- What time is it?
 - Time to do well,
 - Time to live better,
 - Give up that grudge,
 - Answer that letter,
 - Speak the kind word
 - To sweeten a sorrow,
 - Do that kind deed
 - You would leave 'till tomorrow.
- Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless. - MOTHER TERESA

FROM THE GUY WHO LOVES FLOWERS
RICKEY MOORE