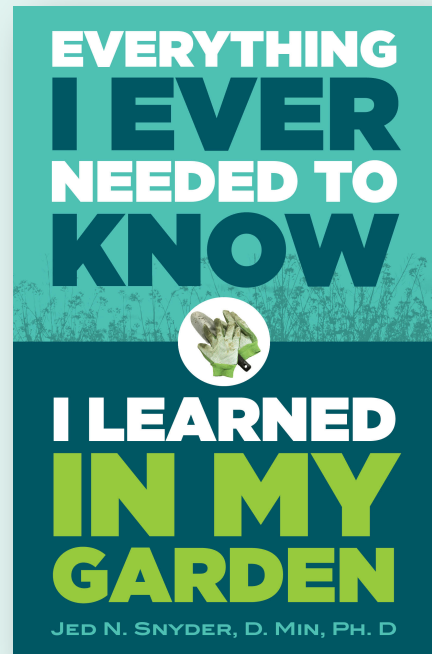


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God chose a garden setting for the dawning moment in human history. The first marriage took place in a garden, as did the first temptation. Jesus used gardening metaphors to communicate deep spiritual truths. He spoke of good soil, bad fruit, people as branches, and himself as the true, life-giving vine.

Growing up as a missionary kid in Bolivia, Jed Snyder tended the chickens and pigs and worked in the extensive gardens that supplied his boarding school with food. Those early experiences instilled in Jed a deep love for growing things. Now a seasoned home gardener and pastor, Jed knows well the delights and frustrations of cultivating flowers, fruits, and vegetables. As a happy by-product of his labor, he has also cultivated wisdom. In his new book

Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in My Garden, Jed observes that our lives unfold in many ways like a garden, with seasons of sunshine and seasons of rain. His collection of stories—some humorous, some poignant—offer insights and help us apply meaningful life lessons. We can't always control our environment, but as Jed illustrates, we can tend our gardens with care, grow deeper in faith, honor Christ more completely, and enjoy a sweet, eternal harvest.



*Dr. Jed Snyder's use of the garden as a framework for biblical Christian behavior helps the reader apply truths. While **Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in My Garden** is an easy read, its effects are powerful. I've known Jed Snyder as my pastor, mentor, counselor, and a trusted friend for over thirty years. He lives what he writes. You will benefit from his work.*

– Dr. Raj Aluri, Founder and President of International Friendship Ministries, Columbia, SC

It's been a privilege and blessing to see many of the principles in this book lived out firsthand, in the life of my friend and mentor, Jed Snyder. It was the years of ministering alongside Pastor Jed that helped establish for me what it meant to "garden" my personal walk with Christ. You will be blessed as you read this book. More importantly, you'll be blessed as you apply its principles to your life and ministry.

–Rev. Dr. Clifford Lee, worship director at Oakbrook Community Church, Ladson, SC

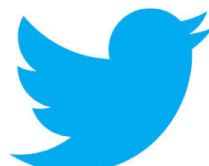
Jed Snyder never misses an opportunity to plant a seed, or to cultivate and water a relationship through deeds both large and small. As you read his book, you will be able to see areas of your spiritual garden growing. God wants to refresh you, grow you, give you great joy, and even bring discipline to help remove the "weeds." Just as the fruit of the earthly harvest comes from this elemental work, so develops spiritual fruit. Expect this work to provide guidance and encouragement to those who seek to do the will of our Lord Jesus Christ.

–Dan Amiralian, president of New Age EMS, Inc., Attleboro, MA

ABOUT JED SNYDER



Jed Snyder is the founder and president of Jesus Everyday Ministries, as well as pastor of Augusta Street Church in West Columbia, South Carolina. Jed grew up in a large missionary family in Bolivia. He holds a BA in biblical studies from Cairn University, an ME from Temple University, and a DMin and PhD from Trinity Theological Seminary. Jed has served for many years as a pastor throughout the Northeast and in South Carolina, and has shared the Good News farther afield as a short-term missionary in Central Europe and South America. For relaxation, Jed enjoys gardening, refinishing furniture, and penning an inspirational column for his hometown newspaper. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children and six grandchildren.



A Conversation with Jed Snyder

How did your experiences as a “missionary kid” play into the writing of this book?

While just a teen in Bolivia I was given responsibilities that rival what adults usually do. One was to care for chickens and pigs. We also had a huge garden to feed the faculty and students at the boarding school. So from a very early age I was able to get a good sense of animal and plant husbandry.

So how long have you been keeping a “backyard garden?”

Well, this question might sort of reveal my age, but let me just say that I have had backyard gardens everywhere we have lived after marriage with the exception of the first year when we lived in an apartment.

What do you enjoy most about gardening?

That is a tough question but let me say that the feel of warm moist dirt in my hands in early spring is great. But the best, I guess, is eating that first juicy, red tomato directly from the vine.

What lessons have you learned from your garden?

That is exactly what this book covers. I am humbled by the grace of our Lord that he would have a seed grow in dirt into a comparatively large plant with fruit we can eat to sustain our lives. What an awesome God we serve!

Why should others think of you as an expert in gardening?

I don't consider myself an expert, but rather an observer and a person with lots of questions. The answers to many of these along with life applications have helped me and I trust others will be equally helped by my book.

What would you want for readers of your book?

It would delight me if at least two results were experienced. One, of course, is that readers will apply these lessons in their lives and be encouraged. The second is that they would have a new or renewed joy in their own backyard garden.

Will you be writing other books of similar genre?

Yes, I have written a book entitled A Guide to Recognize Your Spiritual Gifts. The special distinction of this book as contrasted with others on the gifts, is that I also talk to the fleshly and satanic counterfeits.

Some preachers have their sermons transcribed and a “ghost writer” makes them into a book. Is this what you have done?

No, this book is “from scratch.” While the truths in it have been in many of my sermons, no sermon or lesson I have given comes directly from this book. It is new, fresh and, I believe, will be very helpful to the reading Christian public. I hope thousands of copies are sold, precisely because it is written to lift the body of Christ.