



The Seasonality of our Lives!

One of life's greatest discoveries is that our lives are seasonal. I grew up on Long Island and we were blessed to have and experience all 4 seasons of the year. Including ***Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall!*** I learned that the seasons of the year are not that dissimilar from how we live our lives. Dutch Sheets shares in his book, '***The River of God***' those similarities. He says, ***Winter is a Season of Resting; Spring is a Season of Sowing; Summer is a Season of Growing and Fall is a Season of Harvest!*** It takes genuine discernment to realize the season you are currently in. Many miss it and misjudge the season they are in and thus they miss the blessings that could be there's if they would only judge righteously according to **John 7:24!**

Jesus said, *24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.* KJV. The Easy to Read Version reads, *24 Stop judging by the way things look. Be fair and judge by what is really right.* In the ***New Living Translation*** it reads, *Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.*

Human beings tend to misjudge their circumstances and are blinded to the possibilities of what could be but instead they focus on what they are facing. Have you heard the expression that ***when it seems like things are falling apart they are actually falling into place?!*** I cannot say this is an absolute truth, but it certainly can be a possibility for you and me.

The truth about seasons *is that while you cannot change the season that you may find yourself in you can still adapt to them!* Identifying and Adapting to the season you are in is key to what God intends for you to experience,

WINTER IS A SEASON OF RESTING

Someone asked the question, *Why does God send the Winter season?* The answer was so simple and yet so profound. ***The answer was because God wants to control the pest population...He wants to get the bugs out of our lives!***

If you really think about it Winter is a season where nothing grows. The ground is resting. Have you considered that a farmer can overwork his ground by not giving it a chance to rest, regain nutrients, and find itself ready for a new planting season. This principle of resting is something God has always known but it took man some time to learn. What exactly takes place during a winter season?

In **Psalms 104:16** we are told, ***The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted; Sap*** is very interesting. We are all familiar when winter hits and during the previous season of Fall/Autumn as the leaves begin to fall off the trees and the **Sap**, which is the life force of the tree, goes underground!

When you see nothing happening above the ground that does not mean nothing is happening below the ground. Not only is God limiting the bug population but figuratively, in our lives, God is endeavoring to get the bugs out too! If you apply this to your redemption in Christ Jesus you should consider that **Hebrews 4** deals much with the idea of entering into His rest which is resting on what Christ has already done for us in His atoning work.

Hebrews 4:3, *For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world (ESV).*

SPRING IS A SEASON OF SOWING OR PLANTING

There is a time to rest. Resting from our own self effort. Resting on the finished work of Christ and allowing God to help remove what has been hindering us from being fruitful as God wants. Then comes the **Spring Season** and it's time to begin planting for a new harvest spiritually and/or physically. **Galatians 6:7** reads, *Don't be under any illusion: you cannot make a fool of God! **A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows*** (Phillips Translation).

This is a very thought provoking verse. J.B. Phillips put it on the line when he wrote in his translation that a man's harvest is based entirely on what he sows. Did he really say **A MAN'S HARVEST IN LIFE IS BASED ENTIRELY ON WHAT HE SOWS?** This tells us that this season of sowing is not one to be missed by us. Have you learned yet that God is NOT Stingy? Neither should we be when it comes to what Paul referred to as no church got involved with him concerning *Giving and Receiving but the Philippian church only!* (**Philippians 4:16**).

The truth is that if you are NOT happy with what you are harvesting than consider changing what you are sowing. It is important to say that sowing or planting is not limited to finances or money. ***We can sow or plant, Our Time, Our Talent and Our Treasure.*** We also can use our words or attitudes as seeds that will yield a harvest. We have been given this power from God!

Jesus said in **Mark 11:23** that we can have what we say continually when we believe it in our hearts. **Proverbs 18:21** tells us that Death and Life are in the Power of Our tongues and it is to be exercised deliberately and with the temperament of God's Love.

SUMMER IS A SEASON OF GROWING

Maturity doesn't come with age but with the acceptance of responsibility. The fact is we become old with age! Change and Growth are NOT the same. ***Change is inevitable but Growth is optional!*** It's sad that some think that getting older is synonymous with growth. Untrue!

During this Summer season the ground is busy at work growing as Jesus described it as *...the blade, the ear and then the full corn in the ear* (**Mark 4:28**). Things are developing, we are developing and coming to a place of fruition where a harvest can take place. When I was a young boy I experienced severe pain especially in my joints and knees. I thought there was something wrong with me.

What I didn't realize is that I was experiencing ***Growing Pains!*** From a young boy who knew I would ultimately grow to be six feet four inches tall!

I'm sure my mother didn't expect me to grow to that size when she first looked at me as a little baby. We all experience growing pains whether they be physical, emotional or spiritual growing pains. It's common to all of our lives but it is also necessary if we are ever to grow up in every way possible.

FALL IS A SEASON OF HARVEST

There is a process to our lives and it is reflected in the four seasons that we all must understand. To have lived through the Winter, Spring, and Summer seasons but not to go forward to Harvest would be a huge mistake! Each season requires a significant amount of effort and work. The Fall or Harvest season may not only be the most challenging of the four seasons but it is the most joyful season of all four!

As a child my mom's parents used to take us upstate in New York to the Catskill Mountains to Mr. Rasmussen's farm where we would help him plant corn, bail hay, and move rocks for planting on the land. It was fun but also a lot of work. Month's later we were at our grandparents house and grandma was serving us dinner at the family table. As we were about to dig in grandpa told us that the corn on the cob nana served us was from what we had planted month's earlier on Mr. Rasmussen's farm!

Maybe it was a psychological thing but that corn on the cob was the best tasting corn I have ever had in my life! There is something about the joyful season of Harvest that cannot be denied and the same is true for you and me as we allow the process of seasonal living to become a reality in our lives!