



Seasons of Faith

By: Bonnie Terk

Winter is ending and spring is just around the corner. As I look out my windows, I see barren trees. The branches once full of bright green leaves, little white flowers and juicy

peaches, plums and citrus now look lifeless. They are brown sticks, lacking all signs of healthy life. No green, no flowers, no fruit. They have changed with the season.

Just as trees change with the seasons, we too as humans have seasons of our lives. At least with nature we know the four seasons and what to expect. We can predict a warm summer, barbeques with friends and a few sunburns. In the autumn, school starts, weather cools and the leaves will change color and end up in our grass or pool. Winter will bring a refreshing chill, warm fires, snow and depending on where you live, a few blizzards. Finally, when spring arrives, it will bring rain, newly sprouted bulbs, sweet sunshine, weeds and allergies.

Each season has its positive and negative aspects, which are predictable. Change makes most people uncomfortable and fearful. However, in the face of change, predictability makes us comfortable. In Matthew 18:3 (NIV), Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven". We are commanded to change, but our worldly nature tells us to be fearful, so we try to control the seasons of our lives, instead of turning them over to God. Even the strongest Christians struggle with faith and complete surrender.

I have a friend who exemplifies living a life of faith in times of change. Her family went through a transition from one season of their lives to another. They were very established in their community. They had three active teenagers and the whole family was involved in their church, school and community. Her husband needed to make a job change and was offered a very good position about 150 miles away from where they were living. They prayed over the decision and truly felt it was where God wanted them to be. She is one of the Godliest women I know but I watched her struggle with complete surrender.

Even though she felt they were doing what was right, there were challenges. She was lonely when her husband took the job. He moved several months before the rest of the family, while the kids finished school and she sold the house. It was difficult to find a new church where she felt comfortable. Her elderly mother was living with them and she was concerned about her mother's health & the

transition. Her oldest was going off to college and the other two were starting in the new school. A year after she moved, she was still struggling and missing the comfort of her old support system. Through the process though, she learned to lean on God even more.

In God's winter, she weathered the storms and ate from years of stored faith and His word. In God's spring, she watered her seeds and grew closer to Him. In His summer, she continued to grow and weed out her fears and uncertainty. God's autumn is a time of harvest and because of her faithfulness God is now bringing her the full harvest of blessings. Her recent email said, "As always, God has lead me to exactly where I need to be for this season of my life. I have been blessed beyond imagining because I FINALLY surrendered my will to Him. (Funny how that works huh?)."

God leads us through many seasons in our walk with Him. It's our choice to follow the path He has laid out for us and walk through the seasons with faith and peace, knowing that each season has a purpose and a beauty that is ours to seize. The alternative is to be off the path living a life of fear and uncertainty. God's seasons all have a purpose, which we will discover if we learn to surrender to Him.