

## *Spiritual Care Message with Prayer*

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. Genesis 8:22

The Winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms the early fruit, the blossoming vines spread their fragrance...Song of Solomon 2

Seasons are quite pronounced in some parts of our country; here in Indiana, Spring life is early this year, so early in fact that many of us were concerned that early buds and blooms would be 'nipped in the bud', with very cold blasts of Winter, after some warm days of Spring.

I don't recall ever meeting anyone in my lifetime who did not like Spring time. There is a deep joy of heart with those early little green plants pushing up through the cold, black earth. We find ourselves watching shrubs and bushes for those tiny green signs of life popping through dead-looking branches...and the trees? One day we discover thousands of buds, seeming to have popped out overnight, shaping into leaves and flowers.

Cold and sometimes dark and gloomy days have been our Winter of life. We remembered some special days of the past when we enjoyed summer days in the park or at a beach...when we had an outdoor cookout with friends and family...special times buried beneath snow and ice, the circumstances of Winter. There may have been some days when we found ourselves longing for 'the season of singing to come'. This is our natural world.

There are some spiritual insights in all of this because every human life has its seasons also. Some of my friends have lived for months in the darkness of Winter...darkness late afternoon...darkness late morning, wondering if the sun will shine again, as they have battled sickness and death, losses of many kinds. Some have felt the frozen ice of emotions in fear and separation and losses...the singing stopped, the vines feel brittle and dead, no flowers, no sweet fruit. Winter. Some wonder if they will ever feel alive again...if the sun will ever shine again.

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But the same One who is life gives life all around us to the Earth...to all He created, giving true and visual fruit and flowers. Spring comes, seedtime and harvest. That same One who is life, will also change our seasons of life...His life in us will again bring sunshine and song, beauty and fruit. His name is Jesus Christ...the same yesterday, today, and forever. Purpose returns, and joy and contentment, because He loves us. We wait before Him with trust in His love and His faithfulness. New life will come. Spring will open up those channels of life, and hearts will feel the joy of the morning. His name is Jesus.

*(1e/2024)*

### With Prayer

*Father...reach into my life and lift my heart into yours. Give me yourself, creator of every good and perfect gift. You are the giver of Life itself...give me that new life and fill me with your joy. Send to me the Spring again. Amen*