

Spirituality in Winter

by Wayne Goff

Every year has four seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall (Gen. 1:14). Each season has a divine purpose and a divine lesson attached.

Winter is the time when nature is dead. Of course, not completely dead, but dead compared to other seasons. The trees' leaves have died and fallen to the ground. Bare trees on a cloudy, gloomy winter's day well illustrate the thought. In nature, winter is also a time of rest. Nutrients in the ground are being replenished by winter's snow. Nothing is growing at the time. There is a haunting quiet and peace in nature.

Jesus attended the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and John records that it was winter, John 10:22. Jesus taught the disciples to pray that the destruction of Jerusalem might not be in winter, Matt. 24:20. The apostle Paul suggested that he might stay in Corinth and "spend the winter with you" (1 Cor. 16:6), realizing that this season is a time where travel is limited and local work might be done. And at the end of his life, while he awaited his death sentence by Nero, he urged Timothy to come to him before winter, 2 Tim. 4:21.

There are opportunities which winter brings to us spiritually if we will take advantage of them.

First, the days are shorter, giving us more evening time. This affords us more time to read, and we can read the Bible, study a Bible commentary, or meditate on a lesson we have recently heard. Combine that with a warm winter's fire in the fireplace and a warm cup of coffee or cocoa, and a quiet, peaceful, spiritual evening can be uplifting.

Second, there are less outside duties to be done. We are not out this time of year mowing grass, trimming hedges, painting, or barbecuing on the patio. What are we doing with this time? Again, it is the perfect time to study God's Word and get involved in a serious study before the duties of Spring and Summer return.

Third, we are not traveling as much or as far, generally speaking. With more time at home with family and friends, we can get to know each other better. Bible games are fun and educational for the whole family. One of my favorites is Bible Trivia "where trivia is not trivial."

Just remember, winter is a blessing from God when we understand it and use it as He intended. There is always to be a period of rest.

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