

Spreading the **WORD** Ministry



Fall Is In The Air

As the crisp air of fall settles in and the leaves begin their fiery descent, we are reminded that change is not only inevitable—it's divinely orchestrated. Just as nature transitions from the vibrancy of summer to the quiet preparation of winter, so too do we experience seasons in our Christian walk. These shifts are not signs of loss, but invitations to grow deeper in our faith and to prepare ourselves for what God is preparing next for our

lives. The Bible tells us, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

Just as the trees do not mourn the loss of their leaves; they let go with grace, trusting that spring will come again. In our spiritual lives, we often cling to what is familiar—habits, roles, even relationships, fearing the change of what letting go might bring. But God calls us to trust Him through every transition of our lives.

Let me tell you about Clara, a woman who lived in the rolling hills of Appalachia. Every fall, she would walk the ridge behind her cabin, collecting golden leaves and whispering prayers for her children, scattered across the country. Her husband had passed years earlier, and her body was slowing, but her spirit was vibrant.

One autumn, as the leaves turned brilliant shades of amber and crimson, Clara felt the Lord stirring her heart. She began writing letters—one for each child—filled with scripture, memories, and blessings. At the conclusion of each letter she wrote:

"My dear child, remember that the same God who paints the leaves with fire is the One who renews your heart. Don't fear the changes in your life. Embrace them, for they are the brushstrokes of His masterpiece."

Mrs. Clara passed that winter, but her letters became treasured keepsakes—spiritual guideposts for her children in their own seasons of change.

Fall teaches us that letting go is not the end—it's the beginning of transformation. The leaves fall, the earth rests, and beneath the surface, new life is being prepared. In our Christian journey, we must be willing to release bitterness, pride, and fear to make room for grace, humility, and trust.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." —Philippians 3:13 (KJV)

As you sip warm cider and watch the leaves dance in the wind, ask yourself, what is God asking me to release this season, how can I prepare my heart for the next season of growth in my life. Let this fall be more than a change in weather—let it be a change in perspective. Embrace the beauty of transition, knowing that God is with you in every season.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."
Hebrews 13:8.

**"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing
by the **WORD** of God." Romans 10:17**

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The Quackster

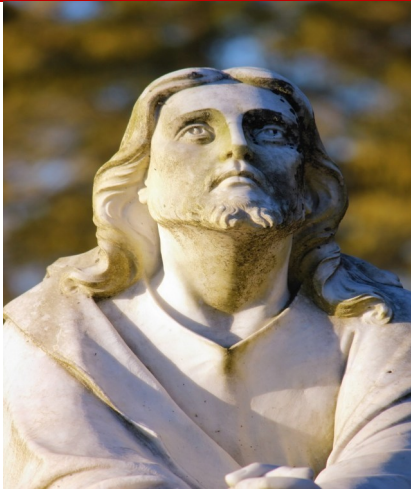
Christopher Kolker MD

It felt so good to be out. Johnny had been studying like crazy to finish up his college studies, and it seemed like he had been hibernating in his dorm room and the college library for weeks, just trying to get a passing grade. Finally, he graduated. To celebrate, Johnny went with a friend to a nice restaurant. For Johnny, that was the first time that he had a nice sit-down meal at a restaurant in months. Even though he was facing unemployment, having no real prospects after graduation, it felt good to get away from it all and have a nice meal.

During the meal, reality reared its ugly head. Johnny lamented about his fate: "There's just nothing out there. I can't believe I work so hard, get a good degree with an excellent GPA, and I'm still just looking for a job like anybody else." But Johnny's irritation flew to anger in just a second. Behind his booth, Johnny heard a small 8 or 9 year-old girl calling, "Quack, quack, quack." Johnny at first tried to ignore it to further explain his situation to his friend, but the "quack, quack, quack," kept getting louder and louder. That girl would not let up. Instantly, Johnny thought, "I paid a lot of money to be here", and so he turned around quickly and shot the little girl the meanest look he could come up with as she approached.

But still the young girl quacked. Now, Johnny was mad. Just when he was about to scold the girl as she walked by his table to inquire about the status of her parents, lament the degradation of society, and mourn the poor standing of her generation, he was startled by someone entering his peripheral vision. It was a man. Straight, erect, and walking slowly, the slender man appeared to be physically in the prime of his life, except for his dark glasses. He carried a cane. Johnny immediately knew what that meant.

The man was blind. Johnny knew instantly the little girl was undoubtedly his daughter, guiding him along with the quacking. Jesus tells us not to judge each other: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Matthew 7:1-2 We cannot know the spiritual journey that each of us is on. So, we must approach each other with humility and kindness: clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... Colossians 3:12 Let's give each other the benefit of the doubt. Sometimes we quack out of love.



COME CLOSER

It seems I've planted little
yet harvested much
while the great "I am"
was calling me to draw near.

"Come Closer", He said,
"For I am with you still."

It is well with those I have given peace,
to those I would fulfill...
desired of nations; chosen few,
a temple to rebuild.

Unless the Lord should build a
house
its builders toil in vain
until unto the Lord of Host
we glorify His Name.

That I should be that one with Him
that He should be my all.
That He could take me by the hand
and lead to where He calls.

The great "I am" hath sent thee.
Rebuild this house and so
He shall swell within thee 'til
thy robes are white as snow.

DAN THARP 8/17/25

A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.
Proverbs 17:22

A pastor's wife was teaching a class about the difference between right and wrong. She said, "Alright children, let's take another example. If I were to get into a man's pocket and take his billfold with all his money, what would I be?" An excited little boy raise his hand, and with a confident smile he blurted out, "You'd be his wife!"



The Pastor came to visit the other day. He said that at my advanced age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. "No matter where I am - in the living room, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I am always asking myself: "Now, what am I here after?"

What's a cannibal's favorite song?
"Heads, Shoulders, Kness, and Toes."



What does my dad have in common with Nemo? They both can't be found.

A burglar broke into a house. He started shining his light around looking for valuables. Some nice things caught his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot. "Who are you?" the burglar asks. "Moses," the bird replied. "Who would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed. "I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

