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TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

God in his great creativity designed the world to have four seasons. I grew up in Michigan, where winter could be a difficult and hard season. I remember blizzards that came, and snow drifted up to the middle of telephone poles. I remember highways being shut down because of the snow and the wind. The frost would form on our windows as children because we did not have double-paned glass. Yet even in the frost on the glass there was a display of creativity. They were like diamonds sparkling as the sun shone through. Each snowflake that fell was unique. Did you know that no two are identical? What creativity!

Then came the first signs of spring. The snow would melt, and you would see the signs of spring flowers come up. There were daffodils and lilies of the valley that would grace the edge of our yard. Sometimes a late season snow would cover them momentarily, but there was always the smell of spring in the air. With spring came new life and newness to the earth. The hardness of winter would leave, and the ground was ready for new seed to be sown. Such creativity!

Spring would give way to summer, where the sun warmed our little tourist town and Lake Michigan. We thought the water was warm when it finally hit 70°. The youth would take to the lake and the playground was full of laughter and frolicking. It was indeed my favorite time of year. The city had a mile long breakwall that held our "lighthouse" that we display in this newsletter daily. There was daily fishing and swimming off that breakwall. Life was slow and easy, and life was good growing up in the 50's and 60's. Such creativity God brought with summer!

Then the fall came with the rainbow of colors in the trees. Days grew shorter and we knew there were only weeks before winter came again. There were bonfires and hayrides. There was a harvest festival, and there was school. God's colorful palette of creativity was painted for weeks on end. Then the first snow fell, and we knew it would be a long winter, usually from late October through the end of March or early April.

It tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 about seasons also. ***"<sup>1</sup>To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: <sup>2</sup>A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted <sup>3</sup>A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup> a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup> A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; <sup>7</sup> a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak: <sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."***

You see, my friend, there will always be seasons. Whatever season you are in, know the Creator Himself, is there with you. He knows the seasons because He created them. He will see you through to the next season. Never doubt that He is there with you. He will get you through!