

Lesson on Life Living...Living Life...Giving Life!

By Gerald Cumby

This week, I want to do something a little different:

- **I just want to hug on you a while. Sometimes we just need that.**
- **I want to encourage, not discourage.**
- **I want to lift-up, not tear down.**
- **I don't want to judge you; the "One who knows all" can do that...and do a much better job than I can!**

God is interchangeable in his dealings with us!

Romans 11:29, For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable.

Seasons of Life are evident.

Since God loves to make our lives interesting, He has us to *experience seasons of life.*

Note: Some never enter into all the seasons God has planned for mankind.

Why does God have seasons?

- He loves variety. He loves color; He loves the creation in which He made. He wants you to experience a taste of life...the new life...but,
- He wants to remind us that we will have some dreary, cold days in our life and then there comes new and exciting life...to pick up our spirits.

However, we seem to be never satisfied as humans;

- ✓ **Spring**...we gripe about the pollen in the air. The bees that sting us when we don't see them working within the beautiful flowers. We are tired of the rains that keep us from playing ball and our grandkids playing outside (where we can get some rest!)
- ✓ **Summer**...comes, and we gripe about not getting the rain. Too hot; we want the air conditioning to stay on all the time...and gripe because we have to put sun-tan lotion on to keep us from getting skin cancer....We pray for cooler weather and wish that Fall will come soon.
- ✓ **Fall** comes, and we see the trees shedding their leaves...in which we have to rake and live with them blowing around the front door.

We gripe about not knowing whether it is going to rain, to get cold, or...in Texas, is there a sandstorm coming?

- ✓ **Winter** comes and we pray for spring because it is too cold, the heating bills are too high...and we just want to get out of the house after three days of ice and rain...and sleet. We beg for warmer weather.

We have seasons of life, just as we have seasons around the world:

- **Spring reminds me of new life.** When we are born and growing up, through our teenage years...blossoming out...physically and mentally. I say Spring would be from birth to about 25. Some are married by this time, and you enjoy the joys of physical attraction and having children. You remember all the joys and disappointments of growing up. You can build on the joys and improve on making the disappointments to be few and far between..

- **Summer reminds me of a vigorous and enjoyable time for growing and cultivating our lives.** By this time we have gone to school, figured out what our likes and dislikes are as to the type of jobs we feel comfortable in. We want to be successful as a husband/wife, a father/mother, a business person, and a respected person in the community in which we live. I say that Summer of our lives would represent the age group from 26-50. Enjoying seeing your children become adults. Maybe even having some grandchildren by this time. Even if you don't have children or grandchildren, you realize that this is the time in which you become a successful human being or just one that lives day-to-day.

May I remind you...Accomplishments are always past tense. You can't live on accomplishments...but you can build on them.

- **Fall...** reminds me of a great mountain that we climb but realize we must get back down. The climb was hard, you were looking at new horizons ahead, new growth, new adventures...but coming down is sometimes boring. You have already seen the scenery. You have already accomplished some of your goals. Your family is being spread

to the corners of the world. The kids are not coming over; not near as much as they used to. Their interests are not your interests. You realize you are not up-to-date with all the new “fang-dangled stuff.” You are now on the computer to catch up with the modern world; but, you are not tweeting the same tweets that the younger generation is tweeting. Their likes in the style of music are different than yours. The people we want in office (politics) are not the same people your children/grandchildren feel they desire to be in office. As you climb down the mountain, you realize that you might hurt yourself much greater than when you fall going up the mountain. Like climbing stairs...if you slip...you don’t fall up the stairs. If you fall while you are coming down the stairs you can hurt yourself bad. This covers the age group of about 56 to 70.

- **Winter** of our lives: Winter has an early Winter and a late Winter. ***The early part of winter*** is when we are trying to adjust to being comfortable for part of the day and then there are the muscle aches and pains of working in the yard, trying to remember the kid’s birthdays, trying to remember the joys of life when we were younger. Gripping about the music we are now trying to adjust to. People are wearing things that we would never wear to church. Oh, me! Things change! People change! You find yourself trying to cope with society, trying to face the reality of growing older, trying to adjust to retirement...when you already feel like every part of your body has retired from living. You find yourself bending over to pick up your socks and look for other things to do while you are down there. Your body is not adjusting, your mind is not adjusting, and your doctor is not letting you adjust...He just keeps giving pills to supposedly help you. I call this early Winter of your life. Probably from 71-80.

Then comes late Winter of your life.

- ✓ You go to the doctor more than you go to the grocery store. You wake up in the middle of the night and find yourself having to make another trip to the bathroom. You forget where the bathroom is. No, this is the stage of life you can either enjoy and live in peace...or you can continue to gripe about everything. You can tell your kids you love them no matter what...you might not like their likes...but you can still love them.

They have to make choices in life. But...we also have to make choices in our life.

Remember to keep pitching - A 105-year-old Texas great-great-grandmother threw out the 1st pitch in the Texas Ranger game a few years ago. Elizabeth Sullivan....was asked, "What do you think helped you live as long as you have?" She stated, "I drink 3 Dr. Peppers a day...and I feel good at 10, 2 and 4. The rest of the time it's not really that good." Free Dr. Peppers were given to the fans that day.

We are in one of the stages of life I have mentioned...probably either early or late Winter. Yes, most of us have accomplished much in our lifetime. Children, a good job, pretty good retirement.

But, what about now?

Since we can only build on accomplishments, what have you done to build on them?

I say, "Challenge Yourself to the very end." I watch the 100-meter dash man throw his chest out stretching for the string...the finish line. But...life is not finished when we cross the finish line. The 200 meter dash person doesn't stop at 100 meters. The quarter miler doesn't stop at the 200 meter mark.

*Life must go on...*and when we do reach the finish line of our lives, we will either complete the journey home or we go into a black hole...of darkness and separation from the God who made us.

Our choice...accept the fact that God had a Son, Jesus, and He loved us so much that He gave His life for us. He was raised from the dead...we can do likewise if we accept by faith this "Fact of Life."

Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race (the course), I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7.

Remember, Challenges keep us alert and reaching for

something better! It is not what we have done in the past that will help us achieve our goal....it is what we are doing and are striving for that will make us achievers...and eventually winners. **"To God be the glory for the things He has done."**

Make right choices...Make the choice of yielding to the Spirit of God. He will be our judge. Not you, not me, not your family and friends. May God grant you wisdom to endure life and live it to the time we have to cross the finish line of life...when we step into eternity with Him!