

WHERE CHRISTIANS MEET
4050 80th Avenue North
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781
Phone 727 709-2799

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THE CHANGING SEASONS

Can you believe how fast the seasons change? We are into Summer and it seems Winter was yesterday. While we don't have the same intensity of the changing seasons experienced in other parts of the country, in Florida we do see and feel the difference between Summer and Winter. This is seen mostly by the changes in temperatures. We can have the heat on in the morning and switch to AC cooling in the afternoon.

The changing of seasons is all the work of God, our Creator. When he designed and created the world, He programmed the seasons and their changes. Moses gives this account: *"And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years" (Gen 1:14-15).* The Psalmist expressed it like this: *"The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down" (Ps 104:19).* The prophet Daniel wrote: *" He changes times and seasons" (Dan 2:21).*

Just as the earth has changing seasons, so our life has changing seasons as well. The first major lesson in life is to learn how to manage the winters. Winters come regularly, right after Autumn. Some are short, some are long; some are difficult, some are easy, but they always come right after Autumn. We cannot change this. Winters can harsh or they can be gentle. They can bring encouragement or disappointment. The big question is what are we going to do with our winters? We cannot get rid of January by simply tearing it off the calendar. We can use our winters to get stronger or weaker; wiser or not so wise; better or worse. Winters won't change, but we must. Many people wish for summer to hurry up and get here when it is winter, or for winter to hurry up and get here when it is summer. A good lesson to learn as we pass through the seasons of life is: Don't wish life were easier, wish you were better. Don't wish for fewer problems, wish for more skills to handle the problems. Don't wish for less challenge, wish for more wisdom to handle the challenges of life.

Life is about the constant, predictable patterns of change. The only constant factor will be how we feel about life and what our attitude toward life is. Attitude determines choice and choice determines results. All that we are and all that we can become is up to us to decide and we make our choices by our attitudes toward life.

The harsher seasons of life prepare us to properly enjoy the other seasons of life. A harsh winter can make Spring very enjoyable. A good summer can prepare us for the winter that is coming. Above all, each season of life should be faced with God by our side. He has promised to be with every step of the way. As the song suggests, "Each step I take I know my Savior guides me."

Whatever you plan to do with your life learn how to move with the seasons of life.