



There is a Season For . . .

The changing seasons have lessons for us about the relation between the future and the past. It is fall and for many, fall is noted as the end of things. The warm weather disappears, many plants die, the leaves fall, and winter will soon take hold with cold, gray skies, and shorter days. Some see only losses and negatives. They assume giving up things is always a prerequisite for moving forward. However, there is more to fall and to moving forward. Fall brings the harvest! There is an explosion of beauty and the bounty from the land that will sustain us through the winter. In fall's bounty is the reminder that harvest depends on the summer months that preceded it. Without the warm summer sun and rain, there would be no harvest. Just as important, if the seeds had not been planted in the spring when winter gave way to spring's renewal, there would have been no plants to grow in the summer and again, no fall harvest! Many forget that winter too is glorious and has a critical place. Many plants need the months of cold to recharge and get ready for spring's new growth! The glory of many spring flowers depends on fall bulb planting since a winter in the ground is needed for them to bloom! What do the seasons teach us about the future and the past? Things are always changing and always moving forward. We cannot go back to the glories and triumphs of the past. The fall leaves cannot be put back on the trees. Spring flowers will not last into the heat of summer. However, without the preceding seasons, future seasons cannot come. It is the same in all things. The future does not destroy the past, it builds on it and is dependent on its achievements. Just as keeping the rhythm of planting and harvest is what assures the future food supply, the future in all things depends on the wisdom gained and passed on from the past. Remembered past lessons give a foundation on which to build a future without always having to start from scratch; covering the same ground over and over; never able to move on. The seasons are a repeating cycle, but no two springs or summers, falls or winters are exactly the same. The challenge is to build on the strong foundation the past offers for avoiding past mistakes, and at the same time, embracing the new possibilities that come along without seeking newness and changing things just for the sake of newness and change. It is both a good foundation and openness to innovation together that will enable good choices and a bright future.

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **the people of the Ukraine.** 13,000 have been killed & 2 million people are internally displaced.
- **the Kurds & others suffering from continuing** ethnic & religion-based violence.
- **Those facing fire and storms** in California and elsewhere in the world. There have been fires, tornados & flooding this week.
- **Those facing gun violence.** There have been 14 more shootings in the US in which 4 or more were hurt or killed since October 27 (19 killed; 54 injured).
- **Those seeking asylum in the U.S.** Especially remember the children and their families.



There is a Season For . . .

The changing seasons have lessons for us about the relation between the future and the past. It is fall and for many, fall is noted as the end of things. The warm weather disappears, many plants die, the leaves fall, and winter will soon take hold with cold, gray skies, and shorter days. Some see only losses and negatives. They assume giving up things is always a prerequisite for moving forward. However, there is more to fall and to moving forward. Fall brings the harvest! There is an explosion of beauty and the bounty from the land that will sustain us through the winter. In fall's bounty is the reminder that harvest depends on the summer months that preceded it. Without the warm summer sun and rain, there would be no harvest. Just as important, if the seeds had not been planted in the spring when winter gave way to spring's renewal, there would have been no plants to grow in the summer and again, no fall harvest! Many forget that winter too is glorious and has a critical place. Many plants need the months of cold to recharge and get ready for spring's new growth! The glory of many spring flowers depends on fall bulb planting since a winter in the ground is needed for them to bloom! What do the seasons teach us about the future and the past? Things are always changing and always moving forward. We cannot go back to the glories and triumphs of the past. The fall leaves cannot be put back on the trees. Spring flowers will not last into the heat of summer. However, without the preceding seasons, future seasons cannot come. It is the same in all things. The future does not destroy the past, it builds on it and is dependent on its achievements. Just as keeping the rhythm of planting and harvest is what assures the future food supply, the future in all things depends on the wisdom gained and passed on from the past. Remembered past lessons give a foundation on which to build a future without always having to start from scratch; covering the same ground over and over; never able to move on. The seasons are a repeating cycle, but no two springs or summers, falls or winters are exactly the same. The challenge is to build on the strong foundation the past offers for avoiding past mistakes, and at the same time, embracing the new possibilities that come along without seeking newness and changing things just for the sake of newness and change. It is both a good foundation and openness to innovation together that will enable good choices and a bright future.

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **the people of the Ukraine.** 13,000 have been killed & 2 million people are internally displaced.
- **the Kurds & others suffering from continuing** ethnic & religion-based violence.
- **Those facing fire and storms** in California and elsewhere in the world. There have been fires, tornados & flooding this week.
- **Those facing gun violence.** There have been 14 more shootings in the US in which 4 or more were hurt or killed since October 27 (19 killed; 54 injured).
- **Those seeking asylum in the U.S.** Especially remember the children and their families.