

# ENTHEOS

Welcome to 'Entheos' (gk for 'full of God, a word from which we also derive our English word 'enthusiasm'). Christians who live loved, knowing the Grace of God should be a people who are so enthusiastic about life, its contagious.

*Entheos* will be a brief fortnightly newsletter/devotional with articles on a variety of interesting Christian topics as well as a free monthly give away.

## Article: Life Has Seasons

Winter is often thought of as a season of bareness, bleakness, and cold sterility. Yet in hibernation life is resting in preparation for the extravagant colours of the coming spring.

I'm no gardener, but I understand that for some plants the intensity of the cold deepens the colour of the spring blooms. During winter nothing appears on the surface to be happening, but life is still happening below the surface out of sight of what is externally observed. The seasons show us so clearly that life is full of transition and change. These annual cycles while similar year after year, are never exactly the same as the one before. From birth to death, life is about adjusting to changes in every facet of our existence. The only unchangeable certainty is Father God's love for us, and while His love is unchanging, our capacity to receive and be nurtured by His love grows with our continued attachment to Him.

Stephen Covey makes this observation;  
"We can't cope with change,  
without a changeless core in us."

Without that changeless core, life becomes one of survival. Surviving what seems purposeless and random, rather than being centered in the changelessness of the divine presence.

Learning to locate God in seemingly mundane happenings, brings meaning and purpose to what might otherwise appear purposeless. Creating space for the spiritual is essential in learning to live in the awareness of the divine presence.

Defining what are our true values and learning to live life according to those values, which will nourish our soul.

Being driven by the demands of the urgent or the strident voice of duty will heighten the distress of a soul in survival.

14th July 2010

## Edition 2.

Those who embrace their disappointments, loss and pain, and journey with God through the wilderness of heartache, emerge with greater compassion, depth and empathy.

Their experience when surrendered to God will have found a deeper place for their soul, in the heart of Abba Father.

Having allowed Him to be their comforter, they will have a more settled confidence in the goodness of God.

***Our sorrow will not be wasted or meaningless when surrendered to God.***

Sylvia Fraser. *Introduction to Christian Counselling.*  
(1999) Sunshine Publishers.

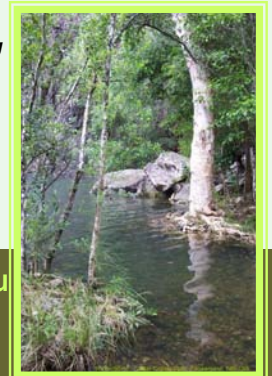
***We sometimes fear to bring our troubles to God, because they must seem small to Him who sitteth on the circle of the earth. But if they are large enough to vex and endanger our welfare, they are large enough to touch His heart of love.***

***For love does not measure by a merchant's scales, not with a surveyor's chain. It hath a delicacy... unknown in any handling of material substance.***

***(Reuben Archer) R. A. Torrey***  
***Biography and Works***

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## ENTHEOS

**Ecc 3:1** –4 To everything *there is* a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:  
A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck *what is*  
planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build  
up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;

Winter is a season when life seems dormant, yet the soil and seed rest in preparation for the life which will burst forth in the spring. So the winters of the soul are not unproductive, meaningless pain, without hope. In the comforting arms of our loving Abba they are seasons for reflection. These reflections though painful, provide us with windows of opportunity for personal growth, to re-evaluate values, character and our own healing journey.



### DEVOTIONS

**Ecc 3:11** He has made everything beautiful in its time.  
Also He has put eternity in their hearts

Romans 8: 29 –Jesus modeled for us the values, and heart of the Father as His Son. We were created as His image bearers and are called to grow more and more to be like our Heavenly Dad. God is committed to our growth, that we might become more and more like Him, and the person He knew us to be before the fall. You are His crowning glory, a jewel in His crown and are being shaped by the temporal circumstances for an eternal reality.

**Without Emotional Growth  
There is no Spiritual Maturity -**

**Dr Larry Crabb**

#### Week 1:

**Ecc 3:1 –4, Romans 8:14-15 Romans 5:1-5  
Psalm 34:18, Psalm 46:1-2, Isaiah 40:18-31.**

#### Week 2:

**2 Corinthians 1:2-5, 2Corinthians 12:9-10  
1Peter 5:7, Psalm 23:1-6, James 1:2-8**

Father God loves us as we are, but too much to leave us in our broken state, when He knows the glorious masterpiece we were created to be. Our hearts long to be whole—our Father desires that for us too.

**God never gives strength for tomorrow,  
or for the next hour,  
but only for the strain of the minute**  
Oswald Chambers  
My Utmost for His Highest

Our soul provides the soil for God's seed, to  
Produce a fruit laden garden for His Glory.

Sorrow can draw us towards the doorway into  
our Abba's garden of comfort and love, where  
our weary souls find rest and restoration.



### Poem: *Seasons*

One season to another yields,  
Each in its proper time,  
And so, in life the seasons come  
To touch our hearts and minds:  
Laughter, joy and happiness,  
Sorrow pain and tears ...  
Circumstances bring to us  
The fruit each season bears.

We are changed by circumstance,  
Made rich in different ways ...  
How can we know suffering  
Without knowing happy days?  
How could we know a sense of loss  
If we had never felt complete?  
How could we taste the bitter  
If we had not tasted sweet?.

The seasons change and so do we,  
And each will it's mark  
Etched deeply on the pages  
Of our minds and our hearts.  
Each page reflects our attitudes,  
And the story it reveals  
Is read by those who know us  
And there is little that's concealed.

*Sylvia Fraser. ©2000*