

Summer's Lessons

I. Fruit in Season

Galatians 5:19-24 (NIV)

¹⁹ **The acts of the sinful nature** are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.**

A. Role of cultivation

B. Attitudes & expectations

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NIV)

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

C. Cooperate with the season

John 9:3-4 (NIV)

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

II. Overcoming the Elements . . .

Amos 4:13 (NIV)

¹³ He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth-- the Lord God Almighty is his name.

Jonah 4:1-11 (NIV)

¹ But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ But the Lord replied, "Have you any right to be angry?" ⁵ Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ **Then the Lord God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort**, and Jonah was very happy about the vine. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God **provided a worm, which chewed the vine** so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, **God provided a scorching east wind**, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?" "I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die." ¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

- A. God's compassion for people
- B. God's _____ in the Earth
- C. God's _____ for our character
- D. God's power doesn't _____ our choices

III. A Tremendous Expression of Life

Genesis 8:22 (NIV)

²² "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

John 10:10 (NIV)

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Matthew 8:1-3 (NIV)

¹ When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ² A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

- A. Choose life
- B. Cooperate with _____

KEY: power; concern; supersede; truth