

## **“Spring Has Sprung!”**

Now that I am back in Ohio, I am reminded why spring was always my favorite season of the year here; during the winter months, all of the deciduous trees lose their leaves and the flowers all wither and die, leaving behind a stark brownish/gray landscape for months on end - very depressing!

What I love about spring is when the trees begin to get green buds on them and the flowers come out of hibernation and begin to bloom - awakening my expectations for what the coming months will usher in - new life with vibrant colors everywhere! These early signs give me hope of a better season to come.

And what about Easter morning - what we call Resurrection Sunday? Wow! I have been saved for almost forty years, and I can tell you that Easter is my favorite “season” each year because it reminds me that out of darkness, hopelessness and death, Jesus rose victoriously from the grave to offer us not just life, but ABUNDANT life and ETERNAL life to whoever receives Him as their Lord and Savior! Wow!

It’s an interesting parallel that when we accept Him and receive Him, we are like the trees and flowers in springtime - we begin to bud and bloom, coming to life through His great sacrifice for us! It’s like 1 Peter 2:9 says: *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*

This “new life” we have received is not just for us to keep to ourselves - it is too good not to share with others! Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16 *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

I also love late fall when the leaves turn such brilliant colors as they are dying before falling to the ground. I believe God sees us at our most beautiful stage when we are dying to self, preparing ourselves to be brought back to life as new creations!

We are ambassadors for Christ, so wherever we go, whoever we talk to, the light and life of our Risen Messiah should be evident to all around us! His Presence within us should change the atmosphere we are in and the attitudes of those around us! So go out today and “bloom” brightly and watch what happens! Amen!