

## Change/Autumn Equinox – Sept. 21, 2022

Autumn Equinox – astronomical event that marks the change in seasons.

Equinox – Sun is exactly above the Equator; equal day & night.

Traditionally, Autumn Equinox was time to honor the harvest.

Spiritually, use this to celebrate the harvest of goals & intentions set or planted.

When **2022** started – what did we intend? What seeds did we plant?

If not fruitful ... still time to change. 101 days left in this year.

**Autumn shows us – change happens.** It is possible. It's God's desire for us.

We are **supposed** to change. God is in transformation business.

**2 Cor. 5:17** – “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, the new has come into being.”

**NLT** – “that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

**When leaves change, they don't go back to the way they were before.**

Dog changes life. New baby changes life. Graduate... Jesus.

Eve of Autumn Equinox - **what is being harvested in your life?** Seeds/change?

- Anger. Control Tongue... Gossip. Cursing. Patient. Worry. Addiction.
- **For You, God, in 2022**: less selfish. Serve others? Hospitality. Bold faith. Allow God to be Lord? Priority. Closer walk. Forgiveness. Bitterness. Turn other cheek? Hate? More Consistent? **What's God teaching you??**

What seeds are you planting, or have planted, in **others' lives?**

**Paul - 1 Cor. 3:6** – “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.” Every word, deed... we plant seeds in people's lives.

Sometimes seeds take a long time to grow and develop. Don't give up!

**There are 2 kinds of plants:**

- 1 -- **Deciduous plants** - leaves that change color and die before winter.
- 2 -- **Evergreen plants** - leaves don't change color. Plants like camellias, rhododendrons, & holly - have waxy coatings that protect them against cold, dry air. They are the same year round. They don't change.
  - a. Some people try to protect themselves. Tough exterior. Seem stable.
    - But we were made for change . . . to become more like Heavenly Father. Born, but need 2d birth. Grow. Mature. Take on characteristics of God.
    - We can't be stuck. Unchanging. You're going to repeat same mistakes. Must be open to growth. New insight.

**Harvest Q:** Are you an evergreen? Never changing? Or are you a deciduous plant – changing as God works on you, maturing you, giving you insight?

**3 factors affect leaf color:** light, temperature, and pH.

- God's **light** shines on us, in our hearts
  - Seen the light? Know God? Know his love & He wants more for us.
  - Paul saw the light on the Rd to Damascus. Blinded & changed him.
- Sometimes God turns up the **temperature**.
  - Opposite of Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego – heat turned up b/c we're worshipping everything but God – He's not 1<sup>st</sup> place
  - Sometimes God turns up the heat so we move/change.
- Chemistry: **pH** is "*power of hydrogen*;" (more acidic, more alkaline).  
Think of pH as Power of Holy Spirit
  - H.S. is our guide; our internal compass; our moral direction. It communicates with us from God.
  - It's also the voice that prompts us to act. And to change.
    - How is the H.Sp. working in your life? God changing you?

Think about this - **leaves change colors just before they let go.**

**They are at their most beautiful at the end of their life.**

**We are never too old to change. Even when we've grown stubborn.**

**Ezek. 36:26** – "I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."

**Change can be beautiful.** Autumn shows us that.

Trees are at their **most beautiful**, most impressive **when changing**.

As we change - become more Christlike - we are more beautiful too.

**Queen Elizabeth** once said: "It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."

Start with small steps. But take the steps. Move toward it. 101 days

When leave change, it's a commitment. Can't go back. They are all in.

Are we? All in w/Jesus?

You can't hang on to the branch & soar thru the sky at same time.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinate. **"I've Been Changed" – Booth Bros**