

A SEASONAL MEDITATION ON CHANGE, RELEASE & HARVEST

The Season Has Changed

Every change in the natural season can become a spiritual summons. Cooler weather tells us conditions are changing. Longer nights remind us to walk by faith when visibility decreases. Falling leaves teach us the necessity of release. But harvest reminds us God never wastes a season of planting, waiting, pruning, or preparation.

By Myke J. Collins, Jr.

You can feel it before you can explain it. The morning air has a little edge to it now. The sun seems less hurried to get up, and by evening it is already looking for somewhere to lie down. Leaves that spent all summer holding tightly to their branches have begun loosening their grip. Somewhere, somebody has pulled a sweater from the back of a closet. Somewhere else, a porch has acquired a pumpkin. The calendar may tell us that autumn has arrived, but the world around us has its own way of making the announcement: the season has changed. Perhaps that is one of the quiet mercies of God: creation keeps preaching to us. The Bible says, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NIV). Seasons are more than changes in temperature. They remind us that life moves, circumstances shift, things begin, things end, things grow, things fall away, and God remains. We stand now in the infancy of another season, and every change in the natural season can become a spiritual summons. Cooler weather tells us conditions are changing. Longer nights remind us to walk by faith when visibility decreases. Falling leaves teach us the necessity of release. But the harvest reminds us that God never wastes a season of planting, waiting, pruning, or preparation.

Cooler Weather

There is something unmistakable about the first cool morning after a long Memphis summer. You walk outside expecting yesterday and discover that overnight the air has changed its mind. Nothing dramatic has happened. There was no trumpet blast, no announcement across the television screen, no memorandum from the trees. The air simply changed. And sometimes God moves like that. We spend so much time looking for spectacular signs that we can miss the subtle evidence that a new season has already begun. Isaiah records God saying, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19, NIV). Notice the question: Do you perceive it? The new thing may already be happening while we are still dressed for the old season. That is one of the dangers of transition: we can become so accustomed to what has been that we fail to recognize what is becoming. September 2026 taught us something about that space. We spent the month considering what it means when the King is in the field—when God draws near, when His presence interrupts routine, when grace meets us where we are. We were reminded there are moments when God comes looking for us before we ever think to go looking for Him. By the end of the month, we heard another divine word: “You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance” (Deuteronomy 1:6–7, NIV). Perhaps the cooler air is saying something similar. Conditions have changed: What worked in the last season may not be what is required in this one. Faith must remain sensitive enough to notice when God is changing the atmosphere.

Longer Nights

Autumn also takes something from us: daylight. The afternoons grow shorter --darkness arrives earlier and before long, five o'clock will look like seven. There is something humbling about losing light because we like being able to see where we are going and knowing what is next. We prefer roads with streetlights, plans with details, and prayers with immediate answers. Life does not always give us that luxury. There are seasons when God allows us to travel with less visibility. The Psalmist understood it: "Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you" (Psalm 139:12, NIV). What is dark to us is not dark to God, and that may be one of faith's hardest lessons. We want God to illuminate the whole highway when sometimes He gives us enough light for the next few feet. We want the five-year plan; God gives us Tuesday. We want an explanation; God gives us His presence. We want to know how the story ends; God says, keep walking. Longer nights teach us that reduced visibility is not the same thing as reduced providence. God does not disappear when daylight does. Perhaps that is why revival matters so deeply in this season. Revival is not the denial of darkness; revival is the rediscovery of Light. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5, NIV). So if the nights grow longer, let them. We know where the Light is!

Falling Leaves

Then come the leaves. For months they held on. Through spring rain and summer heat, through wind and storm, they stayed attached to the branch. They gave shade. They gave color. They served their purpose. Then one morning you look outside and the yard is covered with yesterday. There is a lesson there too. Not everything that was once necessary is meant to remain forever. Trees seem to understand something human beings spend years trying to learn: there is a time to let go. Hebrews tells us, "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" (Hebrews 12:1, NIV). Some things are not evil; they are simply finished. Some relationships belonged to another chapter. Some grudges have occupied enough space. Some disappointments have been carried long enough. Some old versions of ourselves have completed their assignments. And some offenses must finally be released.

That is why it mattered that we ended September with forgiveness on our lips. Forgiveness clears the hands, and you cannot gather what God is giving while clutching what God told you to release. Watch the trees: they do not chase their leaves down the street. They let them go. The branch seems almost bare afterward, but bare does not mean barren. Sometimes what looks empty is simply making room. There are things God cannot place into hands that refuse to open. So perhaps before we ask God what He is bringing into this season, we ought to ask Him what we are supposed to leave behind. The season has changed and some things must fall!

The Harvest

Autumn is not principally a season of loss--it is a season of gathering. The cooling air, the shortening days, the falling leaves—all of them eventually lead us toward the great image of the season: harvest. Harvest is what happens when hidden work finally becomes visible. Long before anyone carries a basket into the field, something has been happening beneath the soil. A seed was planted, rain fell, roots stretched, the sun beat down, and weeds had to be removed. There were days when the farmer could see no evidence that anything was happening at all. But something was happening and that is how God often works. We become discouraged because we mistake invisible for inactive, but God does some of His finest work underground. Paul reminds us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV). Notice those words: at the proper time--harvest has a time. You cannot bully a seed into becoming corn by Tuesday. You cannot shout at a field until it produces--you plant, tend, trust, and wait. Then one day what looked empty is full--that is why we should be careful about despising difficult seasons. Joseph

could tell us something about that. A pit did not look like preparation. Slavery did not look like preparation. False accusation certainly did not look like preparation. Prison did not look like preparation. But by Genesis 41, Joseph is standing in Egypt overseeing an enormous harvest. The man who endured the unfavorable place became the man God trusted with the favorable season. Sometimes God prepares the harvester before He reveals the harvest.

That makes October's call especially fitting for us. We enter a month of revival under the theme "Favor in Unfavorable Places." Perhaps revival is not merely God sending something down; perhaps revival is also God waking something up. Jesus looked at His disciples and said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35, NIV). Open your eyes sounds less like a promise of personal prosperity and more like a call to responsibility. There are people to reach, families to encourage, neighbors to invite, children to teach, hungry people to feed, broken people to embrace, prayers to pray, and good news to share. Jesus said elsewhere, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37, NIV). So harvest cannot only mean, "What is God going to give me?" Harvest must also make us ask, "Where does God need me to gather?"

September told us that the King was in the field. October may be telling us that now it is our turn to go into the field. The King came near. He dealt with our hearts. He reminded us of grace. He put forgiveness on our lips. He told us we had stayed at the mountain long enough. Now the workers must move. Perhaps that is what revival really is: not merely louder music, not simply another service, not another date circled on a church calendar, but people who have been awakened by God becoming available to God. Because there is a harvest waiting.

**So look around, mornings are cooler, nights are longer, leaves are falling
the fields are ready...The season has changed!**

Put on what this season requires. Trust God when you cannot see as far as you would like. Release what cannot accompany you any farther. Get your basket ready because after the planting, after the watering, after the waiting, after the pruning, after the long days when it seemed nothing was happening—comes the harvest.

**"Lord, thank You for meeting us in the field.
Now show us where You need us in the Harvest!"**