



## SEASONS OF CHANGE AND A CHANGE OF SEASONS

What do you think about when you hear the word "change"? The dictionary defines the word as "a transformation or transition from one state, condition, or phase to another. *the change of seasons.*" And if you look up the word "season" it is merely "any period of time."

What was the first season of change that took place in your life? You would think it would be the day of your natural birth, going from a womb to the natural world, but that wasn't it. Before you ever came into this natural world and took your first breath, you had already gone through your first "season". That development from conception to birth was and is a process of continuous change, a period lasting about 40 weeks ie: a "season". When you think about it, after our birth our life is then another process of continuous change, but full of many different seasons.

I believe with my whole heart that the development within the womb is a process that is guided by God's hand. Psalm 139 13-14 says "*For you created my inmost being; **you knit me together in my mother's womb.** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*" But who takes over the continued development and nurturing of our little bodies after our natural birth? What other "change" happens here simultaneously with a baby's birth?

In a matter of seconds a baby is born, his first season changes, and he becomes totally and completely dependant on an earthly parent. At the same time another season changes and the woman ceases to become just a wife and now becomes a mother. Together with her husband, who is now a father, they become totally and completely responsible for this baby.

Through out the time that the parents raise that child he will go through many seasons or better called "phases" when relating to children. I'm watching this happen right before my eyes, once again, as I watch my grandchildren grow. My daughter has asked me the same question I'm sure I asked my mother, "Are they ever going to stop doing this?" I can't count the times that I have told all my girls that their children will continue to go through these phases until they leave their home.

The one difference in watching these phases as a grandparent versus a parent is that I've read the end of the book on this one. I know by my own experience that these little mini

seasons do cease eventually. Sometimes they come on suddenly, last for short or long periods of time and then leave as quickly as they came. Some of these seasons can be very pleasant and you bask in the sunshine of them, but then there are those that aren't so pleasant, in fact even painful and you wonder if it will ever pass or change.

When you become a child you eventually do change into an adult. Although after reaching adulthood you forever remain an adult, you do go through seasons of aging. As a wife, good Lord willing, you will remain a wife "until death do you part", but that is a choice. You can cease to become a wife by one means or another if you so choose that option.

But, when you reach parenthood there are no options out, no escape clause; for this "change of seasons" is permanent. Once I became a mother I will forever be a mother. Even if I were to legally "disown" my own children (only making a point here) it still would not change the fact that on June the 11<sup>th</sup> in the year 1982 I gave birth to my first child and forever entered into the role of motherhood. And once my children had children I again had a change of seasons and entered into another new and permanent season, that of being a NaNa.

Just as spring is one of my favorite natural seasons, this new season as a grandparent is one of my favorites so far. Watching these precious children grow and change with each passing month is like watching all the "newness" of spring.

When reflecting, however, on our natural weather seasons we know that every season is not always pleasant. We have often even seen the tragic effects that the changing seasons can have on our weather. We have either experienced these effects personally ourselves or we have been an observer through the realm of the media. Both can result in the experience of pain and sadness, be it first hand or through feeling compassion for another. But as God's word says, "***To every thing there is a season; and a time to every purpose under heaven***" *Eccleastes 3:1*

One constant and reassuring fact through out our lives is that although many things around us do change God does not. *Malachi 3:6 For **I am the Lord; I change not.*** From that first "knitting" completed by our heavenly Father, he is always and evermore in control. That first period of "change" that we experienced for those 40 weeks ended in the birth of a new life. From that moment of birth and throughout our lives we are going through another "knitting" process; a process that will someday, for those that are born again Christians, will end in the most miraculous new life ever dreamed!

Blessings!  
NaNa Paula