

Spring

- An example of God's creative genius/power
- Lifeless trees, barren hillsides, empty fields
- Waiting to come alive with the power God placed within them.
- Trees bud, bloom colorful leaves / flowers.
- Flower beds fill tulips and daffodils.
- Barren soil reveals the hue of green
- Roses, azaleas, and rhododendrons, burst forth into colors previously unimagined.
- Fruit trees blossom and prepare to bear fruit.

Baptism is Man's Spiritual Spring

- *buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, Col 2:12-14*
- *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), Eph 2:4-6*

The Incorruptible Seed of God's Word

- *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 1 Pet 1:23-25*
- It is also the rain
- *For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isa 55:10-11*

Jesus is the Vine

- *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. John 15:1-4*
- We are the living branches now green and waiting for fruit.

The Seed: The Word of God

- *The seed is the word of God.*
- *hear; then devil comes and takes away the word lest they should believe and be saved.*
- *hear, receive the word with joy; have no root, who believe for a while, in time of temptation fall away.*
- *heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.*
- *having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience. Luke 8:11-15*
- Spring came to three hearts ... only one with a noble and good heart bore fruit.
- God's Power must be joined to our will and efforts or it will all end withered or choked with thorns

The Process of Metamorphosis

- *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:1-2*
- What God started ... We must bring to completion
- Just as the seed renewed our soul we must renew our mind... We make the fruit possible by our own efforts.

The Process of Metamorphosis

- *clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. 2Cor 3:3*
- *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor 3:18*
- The Word of God is the seed, and it is the rain and the snow, and it is the mirror that reveals the glory of the Lord.
- By our use of that mirror we are transformed.

How we Control the Metamorphosis

- *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Col 3:1-3*

How we Control the Metamorphosis

- *5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.*
- *8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Col 3:5-9*

How we Control the Metamorphosis

- *12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col 3:1-17*

Controlling our Own Metamorphosis

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:3-11

Controlling our Own Metamorphosis

- *5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 2 Peter 1:3-11*

Controlling our Own Metamorphosis

- *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. . 2Pet. 1:3-11*
- We do the same thing with:
- The Sermon on the Mount
- The Fruits of the Spirit

Our Spiritual Metamorphosis

- *be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- *beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- *While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. John 12:36*