

March: Walk in Love as You Celebrate Spring
Cresta McGowan



Verse:

See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Upward Gaze:

Dear Heavenly Father,
As a new season is upon us, let us experience your amazing wonder that comes through the frost of Winter and the flowers of Spring in a way that brings warmth and light to the soul.
Amen

Development of theme:

Spring is here (almost...March 21!). People of the world are ready to shut off their fireplaces and repack their sweaters and coats. Bare feet want to slip out of socks and boots and stretch their wintered toes into rays of warm sunlight.

Spring is a season of renewal, of rebirth. It brings back to us the greenery and lush foliage we've missed in the winter months. Shakespeare wrote: "From you have I been absent in the spring/When proud pied dressed in all his trim/Hath put a spirit of youth in everything" (Sonnet 98, 1-3). And I love this idea of a "spirit of youth." Spring brings back to us that childlike wonder of the Lord's creations.

Every Spring, I wait for the hummingbirds to return. I'm usually way too early in my watch, but nevertheless, I watch. When they come again, I'm awed every time. I feel the joy that a child might experience in seeing this marvel for the first time - a spirit of youth. And this joy is embraced when flowers break the ground of sleep and the doves nest in the eaves on my roof.

The earth awakens during this transformation into life again, and as we walk with God's love in us, it is a time for our transformation as well. It is a time to be enamored by the cycle of his majestic creation of this season. To do as they did in Song of Solomon: To go "down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom" (6:11) or "...go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom—..." (7:12).

Spring returns a light and peaceful grace to our souls, and this gift is from God alone. As the frost melts and the chill leaves the air, spend some time outside in God's natural world, walking in love seeking out the new buds and blooms that return rejuvenation to our souls.

Inward Glimpse (Reflection):

Read Romans 13:12 and consider how this message from Paul parallels the revival of Spring.

- How am I walking in love in this new season?
- How does a rebirth of the season trigger a spiritual rebirth of my faith?

Outward Glance (Discussion):

- In your prayer groups, consider ways this season could be celebrated within your church. How can you foster a sense of renewal among fellow Christians as you walk with one another in Christ?
- Does your church hold a Revival? How can understanding God's renewal in us complement a revival of the Christian spirit?

One more peek:

“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”
John 15:2