

CRIBB<S> NOTES – MAY 2, 2010

Spring is a time when life is renewed. Long, cold, winter months give way to more temperate climates and bears in hibernation return to the outdoors where they roam freely. People experience a sense of new beginnings. We are inspired by hope for a change. We believe in the possibilities of succeeding no matter the obstacles. Spring is a welcomed time of year as colorful roses bloom, arrays of poppies spread across open fields, and light showers cleanse the air.

Although many of us in Southern California are accustomed to mild weather year-round, we are still excited by spring. We follow weather reports from around the country and are tempted to pity our kinsfolk who reside in regions blanketed with sleet, snow, and blasts of arctic fronts. We wonder whether it is possible for us to endure what appear to be harsh, icy conditions that tend to linger and submerge regions for extended periods of merciless, frozen realities.

Amid the beautiful, refreshing exhibition of Nature's seasonal transformation, our bodies and souls engage its splendor and we absorb the lush delights each new day brings. Our senses are heightened; we experience the vast and varied expressions of Creation.

We smell delicate, aromatic sprays of budding shoots. We hear slight ruffles of critters passing over grass. We feel soft skin shedding worn cells. We watch reflections of atmospheric prisms. We taste delicious, time-appropriate cuisine. Sweet fruits and nutritious vegetables fill our platters at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Life exposes incredible moments that confound and challenge us to embrace the totality of our existence. Spring is romantically symbolized by notions of new love and revelations of emotional attachments to persons who may have eluded our attention during the dank weeks of dreariness. The warmth of the sun and the fullness of the moon take on greater significance as the Earth spins in rhythm with the Universe.

Optimism abounds. Infectious enthusiasm collides with opportunities to improve the world and bridge divisions among family, friends and strangers. This is a time to step away from the consuming activities that burden our lives, and focus our attention on Divine intentionality. We are more than the sum of our individual parts. We are connected to the human mosaic of diverse cultures, experiences, perspectives, and the unlimited uniqueness that defines each person.

Spring allows us to delve into the depths of potential and emerge open to discover the sanctity of every living creature. Love motivates our desire to make a positive contribution to advance the evolving development of human possibility. We listen and observe the expanse of our ability to co-exist with the familiar and the unusual. Love abides among us as a nestled companion. We are drawn to each other with an insatiable desire to make all things right.

In order for us to achieve our capacity to make life enjoyable, we must practice forgiveness and accept the foibles we all possess. Spring makes room for us not to take our mistakes seriously. It offers us a chance to appreciate each other with a profound sense of gladness for having shared our best honestly and authentically. We remove suspicions and fears we harbor, and affirm unexpected gifts and surprises.

This is a time to celebrate. We can define the terms of our joy. We need not limit ourselves to predictable reactions based on announcements, diagnosis, prognosis, or negative forecasts. Spring signals something beyond our knowing and brings forth that which has never been. We have the assurance of God's grace that encourages us to go forward with confidence of being fully human; fully alive. It is spring. Give thanks. Generously and faithfully share your power of goodness through love, peace, hope, justice and mercy.

-Pastor Art Cribbs