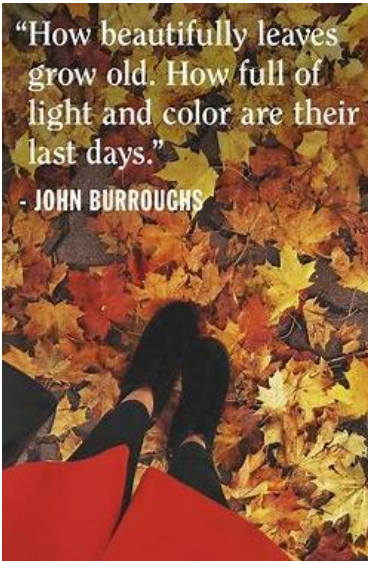


Polly's Pondering



I think the fall season has always been linked to the idea of aging. I have heard individuals talk about being in the fall of their lives. Some might even say I am in the fall season of my life.

My early childhood was spent way up north in Minnesota. It was known for very few days of spring and summer and a quick day or two of fall before moving to winter. And winter came in quick and lasted forever! I truly don't miss those winters.

I do miss the changing seasons of my pre-teen and teen years in Missouri. The seasons were all experienced and none was longer than the others. Of course, the winters were still quite cold, but bearable and more hopeful since you knew spring was never too far away.

While Texas was my birth state. I didn't get too acquainted with it since my parents went to the other extreme moving us almost immediately after my birth to the Northern parts of Wisconsin and Missouri. But I was happy to return to Texas with my husband and three Ookie's in tow. As I look back a smile creeps up on me and I hear a bit of a giggle cross my lips. The truth is I sure didn't know much about life, didn't have a clue where it would take me, and I realized that my parenting skills were sometimes nothing more than trial and error. But what I did know, was that I trusted John and I totally trusted the God we both loved.

So maybe I am in the fall of my life. But I don't fear it. God's word has some remarkable things to say about this time in my life. Let me share a few of them with you.

"He (God), shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age." Ruth 4:15

"Wisdom is with the aged and understanding in length of days." Job 12:12

"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life." Proverbs 16:31

"I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.' But it is the Spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand." Job 32:7-8

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair." Proverbs 20:29 (This applies to women too!)

"The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like the cedars of Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." Psalm 92:12-15

"So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come. Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?" Psalm 71:18-19

No matter which season of life you find yourself in, remember this...

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" John 16:33