

Pastor's Patch: Seasons



Image by [Rosy / Bad Homburg / Germany](#) from [Pixabay](#)

I guess we've all been shivering this past week with the hard frosts, whilst scraping windscreens, being careful not to slip over, and longing for the sun to shine once again and warm us up.

But it's important to be reminded of the benefits of a hard winter frost. Frost in the UK provides several ecological and horticultural benefits, including natural pest and weed control, the improvement of soil structure, and the sweetening of certain winter vegetables. The near or sub-zero temperature kills off a number of insect pests such as slugs, snails and aphids and also eliminates several annual weeds. Soil is improved as the frost causes the ice to expand and break up the soil, thus improving and aerating it. The low temperatures help turn starch into sugars in many vegetables making them sweeter, plant bulbs are helped to bloom later in the year and many fruit trees need several "chill hours" to produce a good crop of fruit.

Once again then, we are reminded of the Lord's wisdom and creation of the seasons that help create a beneficial environment for us in our country. Frost and even rain are "good" and not to be resented.

Jeremiah knew the wisdom of our creator God and encouraged the people saying *"Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest."* (Jeremiah 5:24)

However, it's not only the world around us that goes through seasons – we do too in our own way. We may go through seasons of joy and sadness, energy and weariness, health and sickness, hope and doubt. So whatever season of life we find ourselves in, let us fear (honour) the Lord who is in control of all things and trust that He will bring something good out of every situation, whether that currently feels enjoyable or rather trying!

POINT TO PONDER

What season of life would you say you are in just now? Ask the Lord for wisdom and faith to remind you it is not just an accident and that He is in control.