

FALL

-Ryan Parsons-

Some have told us that after 3 years of being here, we are finally getting to see a good fall. There is no doubt that the transformation has been vibrant and beautiful. This Texas boy isn't used to seeing fall colors like this! Sadly, as I watch this process happen, I know what is in store. Like the momentary flash of a firework that dissipates to mere smoke, bare trees will soon creak in the wind, and decaying leaves will litter the hillsides strewn about by a cold wind. It is interesting that we can look at such a bleak process with joy. Fall signals dormancy and death. How then can it be beautiful?

So much of what we understand about our life in Christ, like fall, is surrounded by death.

The death of Jesus (Mark 14-15)

The call to die to ourselves (Luke 9:23)

Vicious persecution (Acts 8, 12:1-5)

The death of our brethren (Acts 7:54-60)

However, for the Christ follower, death doesn't have to lead us into sadness. Death without hope leads to despair, but death in light of the resurrection gives us hope.

1 Thessalonians 4

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

In the same way, we can look at the fleeting beauty of fall and rejoice because Spring is just around the corner. The desolate trees will one day bud again, and green will fill the hills. There will soon be a resurrection of that which has died and gone away, and that is precisely why we can marvel at the breathtaking beauty of fall.

So, even in the seasons, our God teaches us about joy. A joy that even in the gloomiest times of the year when fall emerges and degrades into winter, there is more! Without the resurrection of Christ, we have nothing. With the resurrection of Christ, we can see the "Fall" of life and know that our "Spring" resurrection is around the corner.

When you see the magnificent leaves change colors, wither, and fall to the ground, are you overwhelmed by hope?