

Rainy, Damp Closeness

"The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a strong hold in times of trouble." Psalm 9:9

Seasons are Vital.

We need times of sunshine and blue skies. However, we also need times of rain and clouds. Robert Morgan, wrote a biography about Daniel Boone. He describes how Boone felt closer to nature when bad weather rolled in. He writes, "Boone" may have been one of those people who feel the woods are more alive in the rain, the air is a little more intimate and a little more vibrant with sounds and smells. Every sound, every leaf, is vivid."

Daniel Boone's senses were keener on a rainy day. When the clouds rolled in, he felt the woods come alive. He could see and smell with greater precision. He expected to encounter more of the game he pursued. Boone understood that creatures felt safer on the quiet, water-softened forest carpet. They felt a little more secure in a fog shrouded valley. In Boone's opinion, dark days provided a unique opportunity to experience nature more fully.

The Bible talks about the dark, damp season of life in a similar way. When we're sad or in pain, God offers a unique opportunity to experience him and sense his presence. Scripture is clear that God walks closely with those who are suffering. He is a friend to the lonely, a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless. He is able to relate to our grief and loss in a unique way. He experienced the betrayal of a friend. As a man he faced persecution and rejection from the people he was trying to help. God shows up in the dark damp season of our lives and he walks with us.

In fact sometimes it's the dark seasons of life that help us experience a closeness to God that a sunny season can never provide.

Daniel Boone seemed to embrace a less than perfect hunting season and experienced unexpected beauty, and the rewards it offered. The same can be true for us during seasons of uncertainty. Recently a hunter friend and I were talking about difficulties he was having with his family. He shared that after struggling during this journey he finally realized that "Misery is Optional"...(Think about that...) He explained that we can choose to see the rainy damp days of life as an excuse to give up or we can choose to let the rainy days of life draw us closer to God. James chapter 1 verse 2 reminds us to: "count it all joy when you fall into various trials".