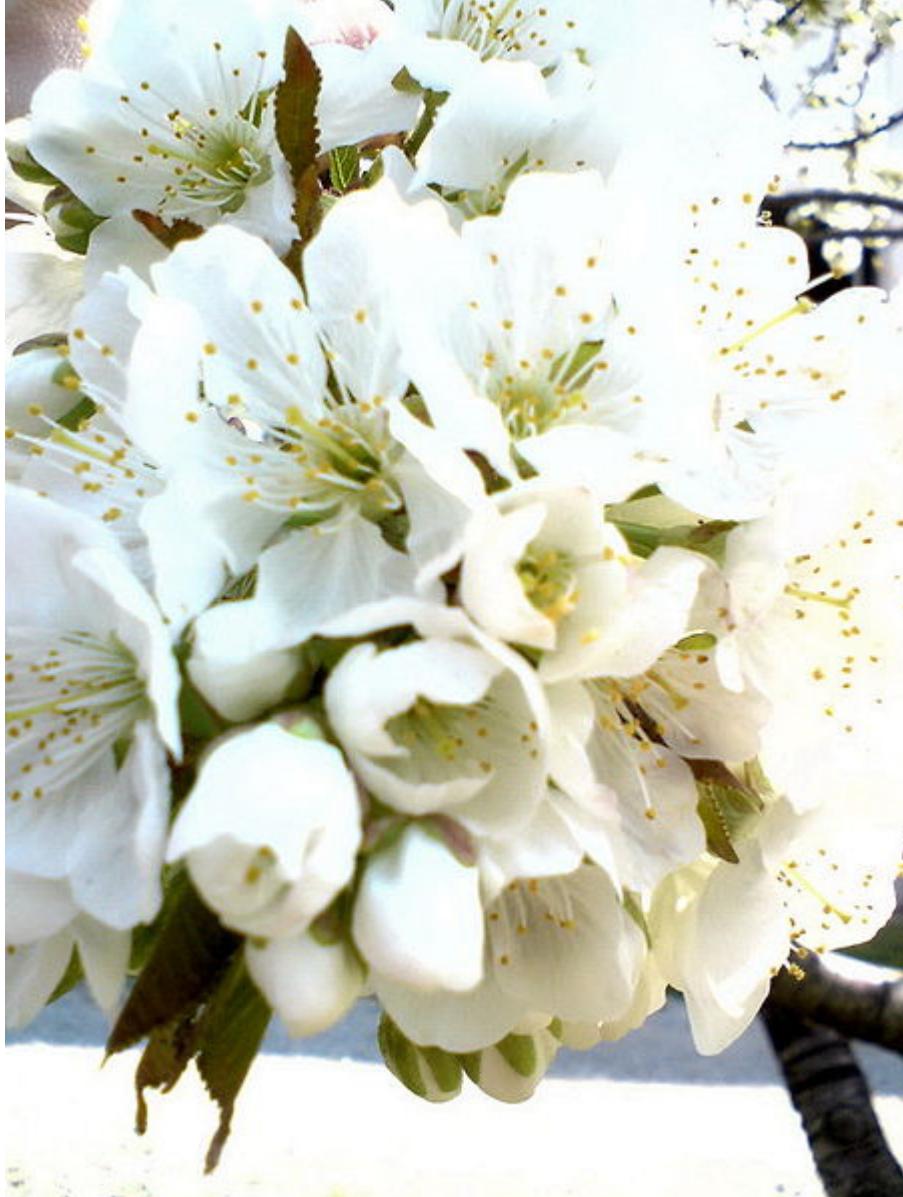


The April CFAMC Devotional Page

Well, spring has sprung, y'all.

Cherry Blossoms in Spring -- Boris Dimitrov and Wikimedia Commons



Resurrection Sunday has also come and gone, and it often seems that all Creation in the Northern Hemisphere (where He chose to live on earth) puts on a celebration at this time of year. Even those that deny our Lord walk around noticing the beautiful newness of everything, and speak (with sad

misunderstanding, alas) of new beginnings and new possibilities. But for those of us that have experienced the New Birth, in Christ, this can be an especially enjoyable season.

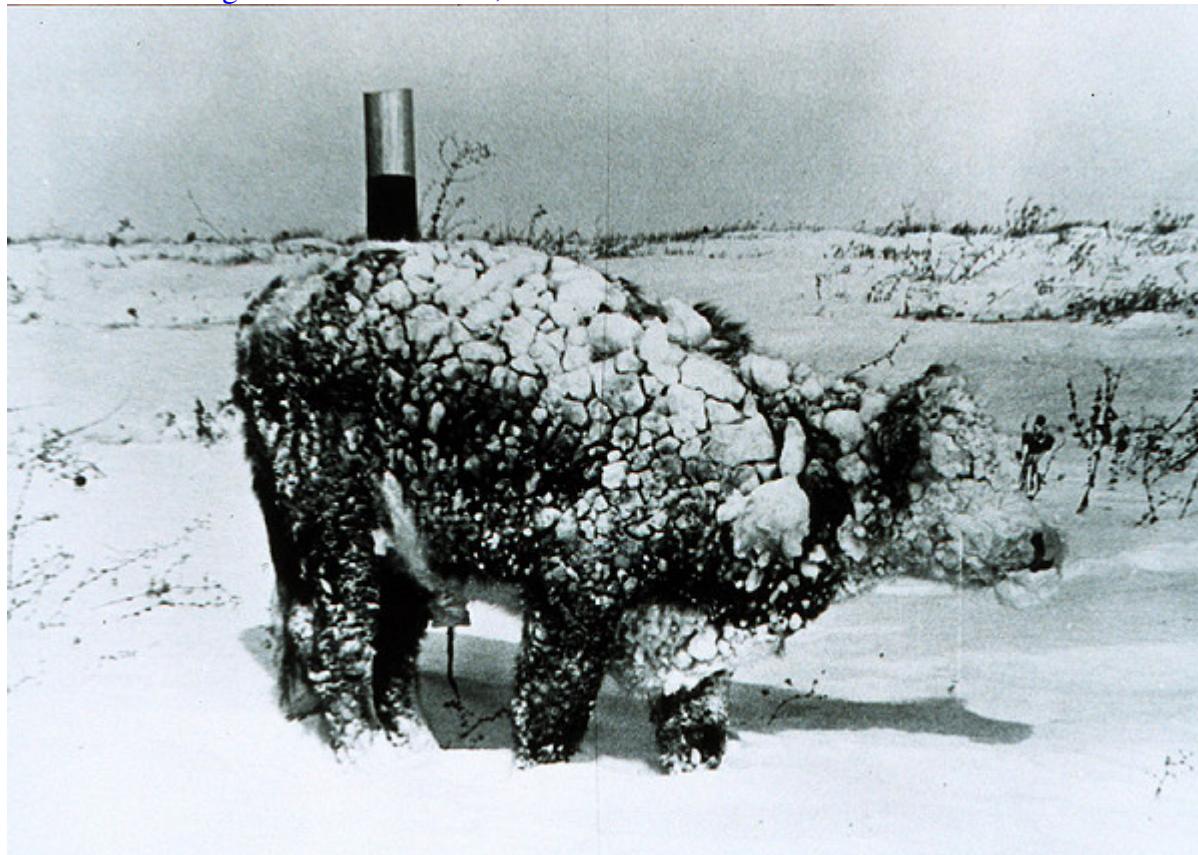
But of course we don't have to wait for spring to spring to enjoy the newness of life He has given us. There is, however, another requirement.

Psalm 26:3 -- For Thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in Thy truth.

I am often stunned by the level of detail God exercises every day on my behalf, not because I deserve it, but because He's just that kind of a loving, caring, generous, overwhelmingly thoughtful kind of God and Father to all His children in Christ. But there are days that I don't notice much -- and it's not just when circumstances are rough. Why? I'm too wrapped up in looking at what *I* feel like and what *I* need to get accomplished and what *I* want and think *I* need, what *I... I...* whenever this happens, I miss seeing the lovingkindness of the Lord. And since it is the nature of the human heart to never be satisfied, an "up day" and mood is never sustainable in our own strength.

And so, no matter the time of year, we have the power to create for ourselves a howling winter of our own discontent.

[Young Steer after Blizzard, from the NOAA and Wikimedia Commons](#)



Which picture do you like best? Which picture do you want to have your own life, and which do you want to evoke with those you love and are responsible for? Make no mistake: no blizzard will ever devastate our lives and that of those we love as much as our decision to focus on ourselves and miss all that God has for us every day in Christ.

But consider the truth...

Psalm 23:1 -- The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 89:1 -- I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever: with my mouth I will make known that faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 91:1-2

1. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust."

Isaiah 26:3 -- Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

Philippians 4:19 -- But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

And that is the truth. And when we walk in it, He opens His eyes to the constant blossoming of His lovingkindness in every area. Any time or weather, truth and spiritual eyesight go together (and you can't have one without the other).

I have learned this under exceedingly intense circumstances in the last two months... there have been some extraordinary triumphs. But there are also some extraordinary challenges. Just today I had to defuse a "situation" with a loved one, and am going through a devastating process of what is either going to be the total loss of a friendship that I cherish or the renewing of it through a great deal of suffering. (I am glad for the truth of Resurrection Sunday, in times like this ... He went through suffering to satisfaction, and by His grace, so shall we!)

And yet I still see the lovingkindness of the Lord, and I have the kind of confidence and calm in Him that allows me to keep doing what God wants done to the best of my understanding and ability through the exuberance and through the agony -- both are a great challenge, but both are possible in Christ, to Whom I give all the praise for even having the strength and stability this day to get this page done. I refuse to be blinded by the glitter of temporal triumphs; I refuse to close my eyes in the pain of earthly struggles. I refuse to step away from truth and miss the lovingkindness of the Lord ... and I hope and pray you will refuse as well, as spring settles in and this challenging year 2011 rolls on. Keep looking up ... and around ... for you can see Him at work everywhere!