✨SEASONS: *Letting Go*

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 'To everything, there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.' (NKJV)

In multiple ways, every day, we lay things down. Or we don't, and we should have. To the wife or mother that follows behind her family and picks up after all the items that are tossed carelessly aside to the taking out of trash when the garbage bins are full. To the unloading of groceries and unhindering ourselves of backpacks and all we carry throughout our busy daily lives to the cautious storage of things not currently in use. To the setting down of things outside of our control or ability to determine outcomes to the releasing of negativity and offenses that need to be a part of the previous chapter. You know, forgiveness, dressed up in all its finery, magnificence, splendor, going out on the town, carefree, unencumbered.

What a beautiful portrayal the Autumn season gives us as we see what God gave even the trees the ability to do: let go of that which is dying or already dead! And if we think about it, letting go of all that we were hanging onto allows us to regrow, replenish, renew. Just like the leaves fallen from the trees are eventually swept away by the winds of life, so can what we've been clinging to that has been holding us back, be swept away, so in the new season, new growth can begin, can be, can flourish. I give myself permission to let things go, agreeing with myself it's time and it's ok to move on. I then am emptied of the heavy weight of my past which has burdened me. There is a peace that arrives with letting go.

Lifetimes are spent being tethered to something or someone we should have released, but did not. There is freedom in letting go; in surrendering what we can't understand, what we can't fix, what we can't manipulate the version of that made sense in our own heads. Perhaps that was not what was in God's heart or His purpose for you or for me. I did not like it about myself when I realized how much I needed to be in charge and how little I was willing to release to the Lord's plan and purpose for me. How, in order for me to grow and change as a person, it was required of me to let go of the dying and dead things in my life.

When God spoke into my life, He gave me these instructions. He said, "Trust Me. Be obedient. Let go. Just wait." Those four little commandments to me became my lifeline to starting over, to beginning again, to having the ability to walk into a new life, one with direction, purpose, meaning, and a better outcome than what I had been limping through. And much of it began with letting go of the things I could not change or control, the things that had passed their expiration date which I had still been clutching to. New life and new seasons follow old, and if we will let go of the past and embrace what is ahead, the journey designed for each of us by a Master Designer, can be so rewarding. Forgiveness has a name, and its name is Jesus.