✨SEASONS: *SweaterWeather*

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

Have you changed out your wardrobe yet? If you haven't already, I imagine it is on your agenda of things to do. Very soon, you will begin to don pants in place of shorts and long sleeves rather than tank tops, and the term 'sweater weather' will be uttered on everyone's lips. Maybe a fire crackles in the grate of your fireplace of early mornings and later evenings, and you are watching the sun set earlier and the darkness envelope everything longer each day. It's that time again. Time again to dress differently and acknowledge a new season. The seasons imbibe a change of clothing, a new wardrobe.

You know what else encourages a different 'outfit'? Knowing Christ does. In Colossians 3, Scripture says, '...You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothing you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete...So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: kindness, compassion, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, *wear love*. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it (v.9b-10, 12-14, MSG).' What we wear matters. In every season. Not just for our own comfort, but also for others' endowment. And for the Lord's use.

In my past life, I dressed differently. Not quite trashy, but with a measure of promiscuity. I thought I would garner more attention, and thus, amass affection. I'd feel noticed. In the season I am in now in my relationship with Jesus, that wouldn't be fitting. Not cool or savvy, unattractive. I must trade out my previous wardrobe from another season for one that is more appropriate, suitable, proper for the occasion. You wouldn't put on swimwear to go to church, nor would you dress in a ballgown for the beach. You also wouldn't walk into a battle, unprepared and vulnerable. Scripture reminds us to put on the full armor prepared for us by God, being spiritually clad in a helmet, breastplate, belt, shoes, shield and sword (Eph 6) to ward off the attacks made against us by our enemy.

Clothing serves many purposes. It clads us and can cause us to feel conspicuous or protected, covered and comfortable, garnished, evident. When things are difficult, we are encouraged to adorn a garment of praise and step out of the spirit of despair this life can shroud us in (Is 61:3). Sometimes, outfitting in a garment of sacrificial praise costs us greatly to put on, but oh, the fanciness of being dolled up in this garb, the royalty of this robe, wearing Jesus, the most suitable outfit for any season.