✨SEASONS: *Back to School*

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

We don't have to go very far or look at any calendar to know school is back in session. Little kids zoom down sidewalks in our neighborhood to the nearby school on their scooters, clothed in backpacks, or with lunch-pails dangling from their hands as they saunter along. At our cafe, the high school kids absorb the parking lot for a half hour every weekday at lunchtime, many of them filing in to grab a snack and a fist-bump and tell us about a dreaded exam or a funny joke. School buses make a lengthy procession, lined up like matchboxes, while crossing guards stand as proud sentinels at traffic lights. It's almost like the school year sends a signal. The dusk gnaws on the light of day earlier and earlier each week, and pretty soon the final strains of summer, will melodiously escalate and crescendo into a drumbeat as suspense music ebbs with the wind. Seasons tell a story, and as we enter a new school year, the first warbles of Fall play through our internal speakers.

Just because we graduated some school or course or achieved a certificate for passing an exam, never means, however, that our schooling has ended. We will be lifetime students—do you know that? God intended for mankind to continue to learn all the years of his (her) life. In His Word, God spends many verses on the value of not just knowledge but, understanding and wisdom. Proverbs 3:5-7 instructs, *'Trust in the Lord completely. Do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on Him to guide you, and He will lead you in every decision you make.'* And Proverbs 4:20-23 says, *'Listen carefully, My dear child, to everything I teach you, and pay attention to all I have to say. Fill your thoughts with My words until they penetrate deep in your spirit. Then, as you unwrap My words, they will impart true life and radiant health into the very core of your being. So above all, guard the affections of your heart, for they affect all that you are. Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being, for from there flows the wellspring of life.'* For a lifetime, we will be going back to school no matter our age or our abilities while the Lord schools us in the ways of this world and shows us His purposes and plans for each of our futures. If we allow Him, He will wipe clean the blackboard of our lives, erasing every mark so we can begin again with a clean slate and a new year.