

Casting Your Shadow

By Donna Jensen

In Punxsutawney, Pa. where I live, there is a lot of talk about the groundhog and his shadow and how it portends to when Spring will come. If the sky is cloudy there will be no shadow and therefore the early Spring we all desire. Is that true in the spiritual realm? Do the storms we go through bring forth the new life of spring: shoots, buds, blossoms, fruit?

Does brokenness tear open your heart and allow a shoot of hope to push its way up into your spirit so that it can explode into blossoms and bear fruit that is uniquely yours? Each time we are broken, the results should be far sweeter, purer, and more powerful than the time before. Yield yourself then and co-operate with God's working in your life that you move from glory to glory through things that derail, cripple, and render useless, those who lack wisdom and understanding, those who lose hope. The hopeless give up. They no longer find life worth living.

Shadows can provide shade from the heat of day and refreshment. Then again, they can have a somber quality and bring foreboding.

E. M. Forester said, "We cast a shadow on something wherever we stand. And, Dale Turner elaborated on that when he added, "Because everything we say and do is the length and shadow of our own souls, our influence is determined by the quality of our being."

So, what then determines the quality of our being? I can safely say that it is our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. As we learn His ways and walk in them, He will lead us into Godly choices that will sustain us through all the trials of life and develop in us the highest quality of being. And, just as the needy were placed in Peter's path in the hope that his shadow would fall on them and bring them new life, your shadow will bless those it falls upon. Don't let your shadow fall aimlessly. Choose and prepare for the way you cast your shadow.