

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



SHRIVELLED

It looked like a promising year for apricots. There had been plenty of rain, and those who shared from the trees could already taste the jam, the unique flavour only apricots can deliver.

Then there was an unexpected change. The leaves, so green and so full of promise, turned brown, curled in on themselves and dried up. Why? What had gone wrong? Comments were made. Suggestions were given, yet no one appeared to have the answer.

I am sure we could all recount times when life takes an unexpected turn for no apparent reason and the "expected" is replaced with the "unexpected". And often, that "unexpected" brings pain, sadness, hurt and tears, and we ask, "Why?"

We all expect that life is meant to be "good"; Is this an arrogant expectation?

We are taught that a God of love cares for us, so why does life sometimes feel as if it is shrivelling up?

Actually, there is no promise of life here without troubles. God does promise to support, encourage and help when we may feel life is shrivelling and curling in on itself. When we might feel like curling in on ourselves and giving up, how he does that is different and personal for each person who is prepared to recognise him as honest and ask for his help. It means humility, recognising our inadequacies and calling, "Help!".

Harsh words, accusations, friendlessness, and feelings of inadequacy can be to us like a hot north wind, drying and sapping joy and fulfilment from our lives. Sometimes we may not even be able to work out why we feel life is drying up, unable to find the strength within ourselves to regrow and flourish.

Are you feeling life is just drying up? A king (David) once felt like that. He wrote something like this. "The LORD looks after me; I lack nothing. He gives me peace and helps me to stop worrying. He builds me up when I am down. He shows me what is right, and I trust Him. Even when life gets tough, there is nothing to fear, for you are with me; your love and power strengthen and comfort me. No matter what others may do, you provide all I need. I know your love and care are more than I will ever need. You will be with me forever. I know and believe this." (**Psalm 23**) (My paraphrase)

It worked for a sad and curled-up king; God promises it can work for everyone.

God bless,
Kevin.