

Monthly Devotion

NOVEMBER

“May the God of hope, fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13



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November is the month we associate with the beginning of winter and a time of absence.

The famous poem 'November' by Thomas Hood speaks of many negatives that could be levelled at November.

No sun — no moon!
No morn — no noon
No dawn — no dusk
No proper time of day.
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! — November!

As Christians we can look at November in a much more positive way. It is a natural time to rest. The dark and colder days draw us to the fireside to rest and reflect. The Natural world prepares for the Winter, and we appreciate the colours of Autumn.

We know, however, that this glorious display of colour heralds the leaves death as they fall to the ground. We are reminded of the words in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 1-8, that there is a time for everything and that the natural world shows us this on-going cycle of death and rebirth.

'There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.'
Ecclesiastes 3 v1

November is a 'season' for us to rest and let go. In resting we can take time to seek a deeper relationship with the Lord. The Gospels frequently mention that Jesus would "withdraw to desolate places and pray" (Luke 5:16). Jesus understood the need to peacefully spend time in relationship with His Father; we should follow His example and seek rest and peace.



The cycle of nature allows the natural world to rest and hibernate in anticipation of the new life that will break forth Spring. We hope that the bulbs now planted deep in the ground will blossom next year. As Christians we have great Hope as we look forward to the promise of eternal life through the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' death and glorious Resurrection allows us to live as 'Easter people' knowing that death is not the end and, therefore, looking forward with Hope.

The darkness of November and Winter does not hold us but points us to the Hope we have in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

'In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

John 1 v4-5

November is not a month of negativity and 'No's' but a time to look ahead, a time to draw close to God, to stand firm in the knowledge of His love and grace, and rest in confident anticipation of His eternal plan for us.

To Pray

As a part of nature's wondrous cycle
Of new birth, growth, fruitfulness and death
We rejoice in the creation of new life,
For parenthood, the passing on of knowledge,
For understanding and the wisdom of years.
We are grateful for those who have gone before
Passing on to us our spiritual heritage.
May our lives blossom as the apple tree in Spring
May we become fruitful in thought and deed
And may the seed of love that falls to the ground
Linger beyond our time on this earth.

Amen

Our monthly devotion is written by Susan Hutchinson
for shallowfordhouse.org

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