

## **Prepare Yourself To Avoid The Traps**

### **November 16, 2016**

It is a fact that seasons change in nature. Just as it is in nature, so it is with us and our lives. With every season we can become vulnerable to traps set before us if we are not prepared. In order to recognize these traps it is important for each of us to know where we are, what our carnal triggers are, and what God says through Holy Spirit to each of us personally in avoiding or escaping these traps.

I am writing on this out of my own personal flaws in hopes that it will help me as well as others. Here are a few examples of my personal traps that I know of. I know I become extremely lost and irate when those in leadership (of any type) do not actually lead but hold their leadership over others. I know that I become extremely lost and irate when someone tries to tell me or another exactly how to combat an issue without actually going through it themselves or by expecting someone to do things the exact way they did something. I know that in the winter months I become bored and lost because I have exhausted all my creative outlets in the spring and summer months. All of these traps/ snares I continue to experience because of one major factor; not remaining prepared for them. What I mean is not staying in continual growth mode through every season. There are some seasons that God has given me to release all that I have learned and there are some seasons that God has given me to absorb His teachings. Without either of these I am imbalanced. Without remaining in His Word constantly, I am imbalanced.

I do not mind being vulnerable to you because it helps me to be accountable for my actions. Even though I choose to be vulnerable and accountable, it does not mean it is an easy process. Also, my desire is that we all can and will be honest with ourselves and with God. Knowing how my personal spiritual seasons revolve allows me to remain open to Holy Spirit. If I do not spend my winter months studying, I will have nothing to give in the season of release. If I do not listen to Holy Spirit in my seasons of releasing, I will constantly be storing or ignoring the Word of God and will not be able to receive anything new that the Lord has for me (I know this because I have experienced it). Just as we prepare in the natural for the shift in seasons, we should prepare in the spiritual for the spiritual shift of seasons. Most of us will not get dressed for

the snow of winter in our summer bathing suit. Most of us will not spend our hot summer days in our winter coat and boots.

This year, I will be studying humility and righteousness. This is what Holy Spirit is giving me to study because of my personal reactions to the situations that I listed above. I am preparing myself to avoid the trap of rebellion that the Lord has recently shown me is still a part of my nature.

With knowing our seasons and how to avoid traps set before us does not always mean we will avoid them all together. However, with our growing knowledge of those things that easily ensnare us, we can still escape them because we will know exactly what to do (which is crying out to our Lord and hearing His voice).

[Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26]

Alicia R. Shipe