



# THE BARE TREES



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Most people like to see the tree in spring and summer with green leaves. But in the fall everyone loves the beautiful fall foliage. We all love to watch the multiple colors of the leaves under the afternoon sun along the highways in October. I have really not looked at the bare trees until recently when returning from an evangelistic camp. Suddenly I saw that every bare tree was different. Each tree looked beautiful to me. I began to enjoy watching bare trees. Then I remembered that my son gave me a picture he drew of a scenery of bare trees outside of his window. The picture now has a new meaning to me.

We have had such a cold winter this year. One morning my friend called and asked me to look at the trees. They looked like crystal trees. They looked beautiful. One tree caught my attention. The top branches were bent under with the weight of the ice. Even though the tree appeared beautiful with all the crystal branches, the tree was suffering under the weight of ice. It reminds me that we can also be beautiful with pain and suffering if under the pressure to glorify the Sovereign God. Talking with my friend Dennis about bare trees he told me that he

saw a tree shaking as if trying to avoid the ice on it. We too wish to avoid pain and suffering if possible.

Everyone has seen bare trees with white snow. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." ( Isaiah 1: 18 ) A bare tree covered with white snow is a lovely sight. If we are willing to confess our sins, God will make us as pure and white as the snow covering the bare trees.

Isaiah 55: 11-12: "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace: the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." Here is another lesson that we can learn from the trees. If we listen to God's word and fulfill his purpose then we will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

I have a wonderful feeling looking at bare trees because they teach me spiritual lessons.

When God made the trees, they were GOOD. May God bless them. △