



A time for everything

Ecclesiastes: 3:1-11.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens; and a season for every activity under the heavens; a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

We serve a God of seasons and we see this in His creation. The seasons He created are based on the Earth's rotation around the sun. As the earth moves the sun remains constant and everything revolves around it.

This is like our lives and the way God has created us. Like the earth, our lives should revolve around the Son, Jesus Christ. And as this happens, we pass through many seasons, again and again but the Son, Jesus, remains constant yesterday, today and forever.

God measures seasons through truth and revelation. Whenever He gives us a fresh Word, we have just stepped into a new season. Every aspect of our lives is as to a season. And there is a purpose for those seasons. There is a reason for the season. There is a purpose for the process.

There are seasons we never wanted to go through, but we learned something from them. And, on reflection, if we hadn't gone through them we would not have grown as God wanted us to. There is always a reason for that season.

And just because we are going through a rough season, doesn't mean God is finished with us because, as Scripture tells us "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." It's not just any old work, but a good work. We've just stepped into a new season.

There are three key principles here:

1. Stepping into a new season brings NEW CHANGES

Change is inevitable, it is going to happen. We look at our world today, and we can see how different things are than say in February; we can go further back and see that, even 5 or 10 years ago, much has changed in our world and in ourselves. But we need to remember we serve a God of seasons. Even in His creation, He created the seasons. And each season is different than the others. Some are meant for things to grow, and others for things to die off. In some seasons the days are longer, in others the night.

Sometimes it seems our days of being in the valley will never end. In those times it may feel like our tears will never stop flowing. But the morning does come, and the tears ceased and joy returned to our spirit.

You know God has planted eternity in every human heart – believers and non-believers. This means that none of us can ever feel completely satisfied with just earthly pleasures and pursuits. We are all created in God's image. And because of this, we have a spiritual thirst, an eternal value and nothing but the eternal God can truly satisfy us.

Many times people have shared with me that they are feeling restless; stating – surely there is more to life than what I am now experiencing; I don't know why I just feel unmotivated and down most of the time. They have tried so many things but the pleasure is only short-lived.

That is why nothing but the eternal God can ever truly satisfy us.

God has built in us a restless yearning for the kind of perfect world that can only be found in His perfect rule. He has given us a glimpse of the perfection of His creation. But it is only a glimpse – we cannot see into

the future or comprehend everything. So we must trust God now and do His work on earth.

And you may say, well then how do I find that peace and what does God want me to do? God gives us revelations and truths to propel us into new and different seasons. Why? Because we are creatures of habit and if He didn't change things we would become complacent in one place.

Seasons have to change. Think about the apostle Peter. When Jesus called him to follow, he said yes, he accepted, thus entering into a new season. One-day Peter was just an ordinary fisherman, until Jesus came walking by. And when Jesus gave Peter the word, his life was changed. Peter stepped into a new season and was changed. He was made into, transformed, from a nobody to a somebody. Peter experienced an inward change. The Greek meaning is to "sprout forth". There is a miracle in you. And the seasons in your life have served a purpose to nurture that seed, and now, today, you have stepped into a new season in which that miracle is about to sprout forth.

2. Stepping into a new season brings NEW CHALLENGES

Every season brings with it new changes and challenges. As I said before, some we would rather not face, but we cannot remain stagnant. And whatever we are to face, whatever season we are entering, God will never let go of us.

Think again of Peter, one minute he was proclaiming Jesus the Son of God, and the next minute being rebuked by Jesus, and being called Satan, and having Jesus turn His back on him telling him to get behind Him. That would have been a challenge for him and it happened in such a small space of time – just one conversation.

And then late Peter's humility was challenged when the Jesus, the Son of God, the Light of the World, the Alpha the Omega, the Beginning and the End, lowered Himself to the point of a servant to wash Peter's feet. But in all these instances, Peter stepped up to the challenge.

Then Peter faced another season – another challenge in which he felt a failure. This was when he was in the courtyard and denied the Lord three times. The rooster crowed and the words of Jesus returned to his mind and Christ's eyes and his met, "before the rooster crows you will have denied me three times." And he ran off and wept bitterly.

And that is exactly what happens to us when we step into a season where it seems as if all is going to hell in a hand basket, you feel dry and empty and despite your best efforts you feel as if you've let the Lord down and you begin to believe you are a complete and total failure. You are still trying to follow Jesus, but you are following at a distance.

But remember, there is purpose for every season. What Peter didn't know, and many of us today fail to realize is that Christ's love is greater than our failures. When we fail to meet the challenge, there is a grace and a mercy that is far greater than our shortcomings.

Now Peter had a choice. He could have done what many of us do today by using our failures as an excuse as to why we can't continue seeing our miracle lived out in our lives. But that was before he had encounter with the risen Saviour.

Jesus told him to go to Jerusalem and wait because there was something coming. He told Peter not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit descended. And there in an upper room Peter and 119 others began seeking God. Having their hearts fixed on one thing, and only one

thing. They waited it out, sought it out, prayed out and then the Holy Spirit consumed that place, in the same way He desires to consume those who get together in one heart and one purpose, who will wait it out seek it out, and pray it through.

3. Stepping into a new season births NEW CHAMPIONS

Peter was transformed from a fisherman into a preaching powerhouse. Just as God transformed Peter, He will transform us by His power and calling us to step into a new season – as champions.

Many are saying – there is nothing I can do while living in this season of pandemic. But God says – no that is not right. He calls us away from our human fearful thoughts, back to Him and accept His power and leading.

What do you think God is calling you and I to do today?

This pandemic is witnessing more people of the earth turning back to God and calling on His name.

It is possible that the season we have stepped into will be the season where God will tear back the veil off of the heavenlies to release some things. Perhaps this season is the time where those held in control will be released.

Those who have felt forgotten will be remembered.

Those who are depressed will once again begin to rejoice

Those who were once rejected are now accepted

Those who are downtrodden will have their heads lifted

Those who grieve will have their joy made manifest

Those who were once poor will say I am rich

Those who are afflicted will once again walk in wholeness

Some of us have praised God through a lot of tears; some of us had to learn how to lay hands on our own head; some of us had to hold up our hands while we were praying for somebody else, hoping somebody was also praying for you.

I was out for a walk the other day and there were a couple of kids having a race. So I said – get ready, set, go. And when they reached the corner of the street the winner put her hands in the hand and shouted yeah – Gold.

I think that is what we should do today too. No, not go out and run a race but put our hands in the air and proclaim – we are God’s champions.

Like standing on an Olympic platform awaiting the prize. What would be playing – a heavenly anthem with a banner of the Lord hoisted above us. But you know what would be different than the Olympics – on God’s platform there are no second or third places, there are no silver and bronze, only gold that has been refined in the fire.

We have the opportunity and the power in God to take a step into a new season as a champion.

So, to summarize the seasons we all live through.

Seasons give us–

New Changes to experience.

New Challenges to grow through

New experiences to make us Champions.

Prayer in Time of Trouble

**Lord, in every need
let me come to You with humble trust
saying, "Jesus, help me."**

**In all my doubts, perplexities,
and temptations, Jesus, help me.
In hours of loneliness, weariness,
and trials, Jesus, help me.**

**In the failure of my plans and hopes; in
disappointments, troubles, and sorrows,
Jesus, help me.**

**When others fail me and
Your grace alone can assist me,
Jesus, help me.**

**When I throw myself on Your tender love
as a father and savior,
Jesus, help me.**

**When my heart is cast down by failure
at seeing no good come from my efforts,
Jesus, help me.**

**When I feel impatient and
my cross irritates me, Jesus, help me.**

**When I am ill and my head and hands
cannot work and I am lonely,
Jesus, help me.**

**Always, always, in spite of weakness,
falls, and shortcomings of every kind,
Jesus, help me and never
forsake me.**

Amen.