



# SEASONS

Seasons Series

Part 1

October 2, 2022

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup> a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; <sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time

to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”

May Lord add His blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

This morning we will begin a new series here at The Assembly entitled Seasons during which we will look at the lives of different characters noted throughout the Bible to discuss and analyze how different seasons came with different rewards, difficulties and victories. As it is in the natural so it is in the spiritual; each season produces different fruits.

Some seasons demand more grace and long suffering where as other seasons demand more faith or patience. In the end, the one thing we can bank on is that seasons always change and with each season comes with its own set of challenges and rewards.

Here is a challenge I want to issue to all of us today including myself; slow down, embrace your current season, and stop living for the next season. Church, just as Solomon stated; there is a time and season for everything under the sun but far too many of us refuse to find joy in our current season because, in our minds, joy will only come when a certain season arrives.

If we are constantly chasing the next season then we will never be at a place to embrace the benefits found in our current season. Chasing the next thing will always leave us empty and discontented. Far too many of us get trapped on the hamster wheel of competition thinking that if we have certain things or meet certain goals then we will be happy and stable and at peace.

Church, competition is the thief of joy and the enemy of contentment. And is not our discontentment over stuff actually a byproduct of our discontentment in our walk with Christ? Could our discontentment be dishonoring to the Lord because of how discontentment affects our attitudes? Thus, Point #1...

## **1. The Seasons of our Lives are for our Benefit and not our Detriment!**

- a. Psalm 139:14-16, <sup>14</sup>“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

- b. Note the last verse in this passage of text, “<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”
- c. Church family, the season of your lives are for your benefit and not your detriment because everyone of your days were written in His book; don't write off the novel known as your life because of one bad chapter!
- d. Philippians 1:6, “<sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
- e. Notice what he said... I am sure of this! And Church family, I am sure of this as well!
- f. He that began a good work! A good work! Not a mediocre work, not a bad work, not a half thought out work, no! He began a good work! Where? In YOU!!! And He will bring it to its completion at the Day of Jesus Christ!!!
- g. Remember, The Seasons of our Lives are for our Benefit and not our Detriment because every season was written in His book and He shall finish the work in us that He started! Say it with me!  
God's not done with me yet!
- h. Point #2...



## 2. Not Every Season of our Lives may flow with Milk and Honey but We can be Content in every Season!

- a. Philippians 4:10-11, “<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”
- b. Friends, in my adult life, I have come to appreciate the difficult seasons because difficulty gives adequate perspective to the sweetness of the good times. For example, as a child I remember living off of things that most of this current young generation wouldn't even consider consumable.
- c. Things like:
  - i. Sugar sandwiches – if you tried to give a child a sugar sandwich today they would rise up in protest and kill you.
  - ii. Tomato sandwiches / Mayo sandwiches
  - iii. Cheese sandwiches – I mean that thick, orangey, yellowish looking block! You could put sandwich in the oven and the bread would catch on fire and the cheese would still be in solid form.

- d. And in this hustle bustle age where everyone is trying to get nowhere real fast, we lose the beauty and the opulence of the seasons of our lives. We lose the sense of family and connectivity that we experienced as children when we refuse to embrace contentment in our seasons of our life. Church family, there are advantages of having more than enough but there are also some advantages of not having enough.
- e. It makes you connected; it makes you appreciate what you now have and appreciate the freedoms that allowed you to advance yourself beyond your raising. It makes you thankful for each other and laughter and friendship.
- f. We serve the God of the “along the way” stages of life; He is the God of every season, both the good and the bad. Far too often we pray for the destination but we must understand that there are things that we must learn along the way, whether they are about Him or about ourselves, that are the most meaningful.
- g. We pray, “Lord, hurry up and get me to that place that you showed me that you had predestined for me to be!” but we negate the process because we don’t see the benefit of scrubbing toilets, flipping burgers, or digging ditches.

- h. I have learned far too often that the Lord will take you the long way around and show you the scenic route and allow you to learn things like: patience, temperance, longsuffering, forgiveness, calmness, learn how to pray for yourself, and how to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
- i. And when you finally arrive at a destination like Heaven, as wonderful as it will be to walk the streets of Gold, and beyond the pearly gates and see the apostles and the saints of the ages, and to discuss the hidden mysteries that have been sealed up in God from Eternity past, I believe that we will find ourselves seating together discussing the things that we learned along the way. So maybe much of what we pray for in life, as we grapple with the destination perhaps the Lord has slowed you down so you can learn what you need to learn along the way.
- j. God can't exalt a king that isn't ready to rule. God can't exalt you if you have not learned what He intends for you to learn along the way via the prior seasons of which were sent to prepare you for a future season. David had to embrace killing lions and bears before he could endure fighting a giant.
- k. Remember, Not Every Season of our Lives may flow with Milk and Honey but We can be Content in every Season!

### 3. There may be Seasons that are hard but there is strength enough for every season!

- a. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, “<sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
- b. Church, sometimes it is the will of God to bring us to end of ourselves, exhaust our resources, expend our mental capacities thus coming to the end of the proverbial rope in so that He can get the glory for doing something that we cannot do in and of ourselves.
- c. Note that Paul couldn't fix it himself; he couldn't make his problem or conflict go away. And even in prayer it still didn't go away; but even in the difficulty, it was still the will of God for Paul to endure the difficulty of a situation that Christ refused to deliver him out of.



- d. Jentezen Franklin recently stated, “If you are a Christian long enough, you will undoubtedly encounter seasons of indifference. But we must realize these seasons are not an excuse to pull away from the presence of God, but rather a time to press in.”
- e. Church, the hard times are just as much the will of God as the good times are His will as well. And sometimes, our only option is to endure, press in and trust His will for us even when times are hard; and yes, even when situation and circumstances don’t make sense.
- f. Remember, there may be Seasons that are hard but there is strength enough for every season! His grace is sufficient in every season!