

# The SEASONS of Life

## February 20, 2022

**A Season of Drought  
Dry Season**

**Depression  
Discouragement**

Last week we took the opportunity to use Super Sunday as a way to introduce our newest series entitled, **“The SEASONS of Life.”**

In Football there are actually 3 seasons that each player experiences.

**Pre-Season-** A time to work on fundamentals and get the team to gel. Learn the plays. Get conditioned for the long regular season.

**Regular Season-** This is Game Time. Put into practice all the things they’ve worked on through the week. Study game film, and study their opponents strategies.

There are a lot of ups and downs, injuries...  
the Thrill of victory and the Agony of defeat

But the ultimate goal is to get into the **Post-Season**.  
That's where all the hard work throughout the  
season finds it's pinnacle.

This analogy is much like our **Spiritual Life!**

- When we first come to Christ...everything is so new! There seems to be a lot to learn, and getting into a new relationship with Jesus.
- Then we enter the **GAME**. We begin to understand what our **Spiritual Life** is all about. We get connected to the church...attend Life Groups, start to **Serve**, build relationships...and along the way experience some pretty incredible **HIGHS**, but also go through some **LOWS!**

But all of that is the push to get us ready to enter the **Post-Season...living eternally with Jesus in heaven!**

We believe that Jesus has made everything available for us to get into the Post Season...**but I think the real challenge for so many of us is LIVING OUT OUR FAITH HERE DURING THE REGULAR SEASON!**

I heard several that were recently baptized, that they found themselves in a **SEASON OF DEPRESSION, DARKNESS & STRUGGLE**. **That's when I knew I was on to something as I was planning this series!**

Many of us have probably said something similar at some point in our journey.

- I'm in a **DRY SEASON** right now
- I feel like I'm in a **Desert**
- **God feels Distant**
- I feel **ALL ALONE**

I think it's fair to say if you've never experienced the desert in your Spiritual Journey...you will.

That's not an evil prophecy...it's just reality. **Why do I say that??**

- How many have ever been a **Self-Sabotager** of your Spiritual Journey?
- How many understand that we have an **Enemy** that is always looking to disqualify us from the race?!

**The DESERT is his primary Playground :(**  
**That's why Jesus went to the desert!**

**David** wrote many of his Psalms from the desert, both physically **AND** metaphorically!

**John the Baptist-** [Powerhouse of the N.T.]

**Matt. 11:2- When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"**

**Elijah** made this confession- [Powerhouse of O.T.]

**1 Kings 19- [After Mt. Carmel] Now King Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the false prophets with the sword.**

**So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” *Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.* When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there... while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life...**

**Spiritual Drought may be defined as...we don’t feel God’s presence around us. Our confidence or faith may be shaken and we feel like something’s changed... though we can’t say what.**

**We’re... Depressed  
Anxious  
Discouraged  
Stressed**

**Sound like anyone you know??!! We can get there because....**

- A. **We don't feel worthy of God's love** (this can be due to a general sense of being unworthy or because of past choices we are ashamed of)
- B. **We find it difficult to accept God's love** (because we shut ourselves off to love as a child to protect ourselves or we feel unlovable or we think we need to earn it)
- C. **We see God as a distant, mean, or aloof** (depending on our own examples of male father figures, we attribute these characteristics to God)
- D. **We find it hard to trust God** (some people, due to past hurt, have difficulty trusting and we can project this onto God)
- E. **Something awful has happened that has shaken our faith in God's plan** (divorce, abuse, death, trauma... these things can shake our faith to the core)

**So what do you need to know if you feel Spiritually dry today...or what will you need to know for the future?**

## **I. Dry Seasons END!**

God uses experiences in our lives *for a purpose*, and when that purpose is accomplished, we will find ourselves on the other side. What seems interminable now, will someday be nothing more than a punctuation mark in your story.

**Ps. 30- Weeping may stay for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

## **II. Dry Seasons HAPPEN TO US ALL!**

The simple fact is, *every Christian goes through a dry season*. And, although God is quiet, it doesn't mean He's not there (**He is**) or that He's not working (**He is.**)

## **III. Get Honest before God- He's NEVER mad at you or ashamed of you!!**

**God is NOT the author of SHAME!**

When we come into a Relationship with Jesus...He's made a commitment to you! **[It's a 2 way street!]** And although your feelings indicate otherwise, He *never* breaks His word.

He is truly faithful, and He will bring you through any desert. This time is not wasted, and He will use it for some good purpose in your life!

**IV. Dig for WATER through the Word-** When you're in the middle of a dry spell, opening your Bible might seem like the last thing you want to do, a complete waste of time.

In fact... it's exactly what you need, whether it *feels* like it makes a difference or not!!

**John 1-** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!**

## **BAND**

**1 Sam 21/22 & Psalms 34 [Already Anointed!]**

**Recount story of David- [Acting Insane]**

**Chp. 22-** David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. **2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him. [Misery loves company!!]**

## **V. Take a Step of Faith**

**When you're dehydrated, it's difficult to move. It's painful to take the first step. But once you get some fluids in you...your strength is renewed!!**

**Have people come to the Altar-**

**Read Psalm 34!**