

SEASONS

Pastor Anthony, 10-30-16

INTRO:

If you want things to grow, you plant in the springtime, and then you cultivate in the early summer, and you reap in the fall. And even the winter, as it comes with its cold, prepares the way for another springtime.

And it's the same way in our life. Why do we have difficult times and joyous times? Why do we have sorrow and grief? Why do we have both pain and happiness?

It takes different seasons in our life for God to mold us and make us what He wants us to be.

Just as there are seasons of the year, there are also God-ordained seasons of life. We have—**birth, childhood, youth, young adulthood, the middle years, the later years, and the final years.** We experience success and sometimes failure. We have seasons of relationship and seasons of brokenness. There are seasons of health and seasons of sickness, seasons of certainty and seasons of doubt. There are happy days, long days, and lonely nights. We have all experienced these at some point of our lives.

Unlike the seasons in the universe, the seasons of life are many. There are four main seasons of this world that God has given, but there are many seasons of life. The Bible helps us to understand how God works in all the seasons of life to help us to grow.

BIBLE FOUNDATION OF SEASONS:

The seasons of the year are first mentioned in Genesis 1:14 as part of the Creation Week.

Genesis 1:14 Then God said, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years.

Psalms 104:19 reminds us that the sun and the moon help us mark the passage of time.

Psalms 104:19 You made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to set.

Solomon reminded us of this truth in his famous passage:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 A Time for Everything

1 For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. 2 A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. 3 A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. 4 A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. 5 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. 6 A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. 7 A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. 8 A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

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Have you ever found yourself criticizing the children of Israel? They sinned against God with continued murmuring and complaining. They continually demanded more. God brought them out of 400 years of slavery, saved them from their enemies, and provided daily food, water and protection.

But no matter what He did, it wasn't enough. It seemed what they really wanted was **control** of their own destiny and circumstances. But when you're in control of your own circumstance it's safe to say there's no total dependence on an invisible God whose plans are for your good. As a result, of the children of Israel's behavior an entire generation perished before receiving their promised inheritance.

22The seasons of life happen very suddenly; they change very quickly. You're in one season of life, and all of a sudden something occurs, and you're in a totally different season.

But Happy are they who find joy in every season of life. God knows where you are today and he knows where you will be tomorrow.

James 1:12 ESV

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

- What season are you in right now?

By becoming aware of the seasons of life, learning them, and applying them in your existence, will aid in having a fulfilling life. In other words you will get to the point of due season.

If you're going to experience due season, there are some key things you must do.

Point #1

EMBRACE YOUR WINTER:

Every year, winter comes. It always comes. **We deal with it by preparing for it.** Whether it's changing our clothing or changing our way of life, we always get ready for winter, because we know it's coming. The same applies to our life. Rough times WILL come. No life goes smoothly without a problem from beginning to end. Thus, you have to be ready for it, so when it does come, you are not stuck in the cold without a jacket. **Winter has an intentional way of preparing for a new season.** Consider trees in the winter: During the winter trees go into what's called a **winter dormancy, which is about conserving nutrients.** **As winter approaches - The nutrients are carried back from the leaves into the branches where they're deposited in the bark.**

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Tree sees winter coming but views it with a different lens. Rather than looking at your winter from a lens of dread, embrace it through a lens of Faith.

Faith gives us the courage to bear difficult times, make hard decisions, take on the unexpected and endure. Faith connects us to our source of strength (God) when our own power is depleted.

We must prepare for a new season in winter as a opportunity for growth and not demise.

Point #2

SPRING FORWARD:

Psalms 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Hebrews 10:22

let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Spring is a time for some much needed cleaning up and out of your life!

Every year, after a long winter, comes the spring. This is a time where opportunities arise. That's why flowers blossom and creatures come out of their hibernation. The same thing applies within your life. After a challenging time, you will be faced with a great opportunity. It is your duty to take full advantage of the spring. **This is your moment to plant the seeds of greatness to come.**

When we're coming out of a wilderness season, it's easy to lose sight of God's provision, and preparation. This can cause us to remain in a dormant winter state and not spring forward. You never see all the beauty that is life and nature on this planet decide not to awaken in the spring! They awaken because they're meant to do so. Hold your own existence to that same standard. Make your spring the springboard to getting where you want to go.

Now while you spring forward cleaning up and out your life, please understand that spiritual cleaning requires deep cleaning. It's a cleansing from within beyond what everyone else sees. As your heart is cleaned, your language follows.

Luke 6:45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

And as your heart and language align, so does your thoughts. It is our thoughts that cause us to contradict the Word of God and our Faith.

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Point #3

PROTECT YOUR SUMMER:

“The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.” *JFK*

After having planted your seeds in the spring, soon the summer will come. This is a time where you can reap the benefits of your crops. As well as being a time of joy and comfort, it is also a time to be careful because all good will be attacked. If you are not careful, your crops will be either stolen, destroyed, or spoiled. Therefore you must do what it takes to protect your crops.

God is looking for faithful people, who will cling to His Word and promises, and faithfully carry out its mandates. We must work hard at guarding our spirits. By guarding our spirits (heart, mind, and conscience according to the teaching of God's Word), we take on the wisdom, courage, and strength we need to remain faithful in faithless times.

Psalms 91:1

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Isaiah 43:19

For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

As God brings you through the winters of your life and allow you to experience spring don't sit around in your summer because the sun is shining.

Point #4

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FALL

The fall is a time of harvest. When you have the opportunity to reap the results of what you have planted. Some of it wonderful and maybe, some of it not so wonderful?

As the autumn comes, the trees change color, lose their leaves, and the weather gets cooler. Before you experience another winter, fall is the best time to take full responsibility of what happened in the previous seasons, both good and bad. This is the time where you can open yourself to learning the lessons that the previous seasons taught you and put everything into perspective. Only by doing so can you be ready once more to handle another winter that is coming and plan for the following spring & summer.

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2 Peter 3:18(We have to do what it says)
but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To grow in grace is to mature as a Christian. It is God's grace that justifies us, sanctifies us, and eventually glorifies us in heaven. Grace gives us strength. Without God's grace and favor we would be lost.

So if you're going to experience **DUE SEASON** listen to Colossians 3:1-4

Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

We live and exist on God's time not ours.

Genesis 8:22

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."