

Daily Devotional, April 17, 2020 A Time For Every Season

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 NKJV

A cool breeze begins to waft through an open window. Vibrant white and yellow daffodils stand on tall green stalks protruding from beds that had laid dormant throughout the winter months. Dark tufts of green emanate from lighter shades as the grass returns from its hibernation, starved for its first spring dose of nitrogen and golden sunlight. Our breath makes little clouds in the crisp morning air. All signs suggest winter has given way to spring in yet another change of the seasons. Of course, bright yellow dandelions have made their way up from the soil as well. A reminder that as beauty is restored, there are always life's little annoyances.

For those who live in the North, spring is a welcome break from winter's cold. For those in the South, the warmer temperatures are a warning that the scorching heat of summer is just around the corner. However we feel about the coming change, we have no control over the weather. Once the sun begins warming the earth, to whatever degree, that season has begun.

Life is constantly changing seasons. And according to Scripture, we do have a say in whether it gusts its way past us or we embrace each moment. There is enough time for every purpose under heaven, from giving up old grudges to making peace. The key is recognizing when the time is right and seizing the moment.

How many times have we put off an opportunity to make amends, to live in, then work past our grief, or to laugh with your child? Joy does not come from avoiding these things but in taking time to experience them. The time is now. Do it before the season changes and the door closes on things you have missed. With every season change there is a true change of character.

Wouldn't it be crazy if autumn did not follow summer? No matter how joyous and relaxing the summer, autumn will come. Whatever is happening now, a new season in your life will come. Hard work or ease, placid or chaotic as this time might seem, God goes with you and is guiding your walk.

No matter how difficult a season is, there will be a better season in your life. Unfortunately, easy and pleasing seasons will give way to harder seasons. No matter the condition of a particular time in your life, God remains unchanging and deeply involved in your journey. Do not confuse your fears or your tears with God's absence. God is there, no matter how much you fret or how much you sweat in your labors. The consolation and empowerment of the Holy Spirit is always with us.

In our seasons that God brings us through, there may be fruit, reproduction, expansion, and growth, and it is the changing seasons that accomplish the complete work: not just fruit, not just the changing of color, not just the beauty we see in the comfortable season; we still must experience the shift which causes the fruitless things to die and fall away, that there might be new life in us.

In the meantime, God remains in us and sustains us through the season of change and development. God's love, strength, and grace is resting on us as we walk through it all. Furthermore, God keeps us grounded and rooted, and gives us new life through every season. God gives us stability by bringing change, pruning the branches, wiping away the moss that has grown, and begins to deposit new seeds within us that will bear even greater fruit than the previous season.

So may our prayer always be...let the seasons come, let them be a time that God takes the old and deposits the new seed of thought, vision, purpose and character, along with whatever else God desires. There will be great splendor that comes from allowing God's seed to be planted within us. Don't fear the season, God's grace and love will remain!

Prayer: Lord, remind me this is only a season. For every time there is a purpose and I will not be in this stormy season forever. This storm will pass and the sun will shine again. For there is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to be silent and a time to speak. Though this may be a time of difficulty, a time of peace and joy is around the corner. I will trust in your time and your plans. Amen.