

Blooming Season – Mar. 23, 2022

Intro: Everything is in bloom right now. It's beautiful.

Each of us have a time to bloom. A time that will be beautiful.

God has appointed times. Moon. Sea/tide. Plants/bloom. Us.

Eccl. 3:1 – “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.”

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.

You have a purpose - a season - time to bloom... we will minister to others.

Ministry is expressing our faith. It's serving God.

1. **There is no ministry without maturity.** Maturity has a process.

i. When we come to know Jesus, we are “born again.”

John 3:3 – Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you are **born again**, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

ii. Born again means we born into a **new life**.

Rom. 6:4 – “We were therefore buried w/ Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **walk in newness of life.**”

2 Cor. 5:17 – “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

iii. Living this **new life** is a **maturing process**: Infant to Adult

1. **God makes a promise to transform us.**

Ezekiel 36:26 – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

2. But **we must be willing** to go thru the transformation process.

a. Some people never change; don't become more like Jesus

i. Sit in church pews, but don't grow. Doesn't get inside.

ii. Parable of the Seed (**Matt. 13**) - difference is the heart:

13:14 - “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”

1- Calloused hearts miss it. Hard hearts don't get it

iii. We have to be bulbs that grow roots and grow up.

Col. 2:6-7 – “Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, **rooted and built up in Him**, established in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

iv. **Building up...** Transforming ... means: **difficult experiences**

1. You'll have targets on your back... go thru grief... **cry... alone/dark**

a. We wish for normalcy... God desires extraordinary

b. We wish for comfortable... God allows the uncomfortable:

He takes us out of comfort zones. Get out of the boat.

c. We wish for peace... God allows drama/battles

i. God moved me out of 1 church—to become a church

ii. **Psalm 92:13** – “Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

v. **Maturity** for ministry requires: spiritually fed & emotionally ready

1. Don't quit b/c it gets hard. Hard is where we grow. Push thru soil.

2. Don't get offended when faults are revealed...

a. You can't change what you don't acknowledge.

3. Don't become negative about yourself when U see need/change

a. Needing to become more like Jesus doesn't mean something wrong w/U . . . We're changing from human to the divine.

Tulip Stages of Growth:

i. Tulip bulbs are planted - twice as deep as bulb is high. No roots.

ii. **Roots** start growing. They **establish** themselves in the dirt and take **nourishment** out of the dirt. Get est. in Word; roots in God

iii. **Rest & Cooling Period** - in order to bloom in spring, they need weeks of at least 40 degrees. Rain. **Waiting. Preparing... dark, alone, cry.**

iv. **Bulbs grow** - the starch/carbohydrates in them turns to sugar; the leaves & flower gradually push upwards out of the bulb. Get up!

a. **The work happens before the bloom**

v. **Blooming Time** – uses nourishment from roots, all energy to bloom. Rooted in God, we bloom in His time. **Eccl. 3:1**

vi. **Regeneration** period - blooms are cut, but leaves take in more food. Daughter-bulbs use the leaves to grow. Your time isn't over!

vii. **Multiplying** - up to 5 bulbs grow out of the mother bulb.

Ecc. 3:1 – “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.”

“Everything on earth has its own time and its own season. – Cont. Engl. Ver.

Song of the week: **“This Is My Season” – Sinach**

Stay positive. Test negative. Get vaccinated.

Easter – April 17 - **25 days.**