



# Cycles

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.. – Romans 15:13 ESV*

I had a conversation with an elderly Christian man. He had been in church all his life. He was a part of a long family history of faith. He gave his life to Jesus at a fairly young age and has strived to be obedient and faithful. So our conversation; “What are we supposed to do in these times of darkness. I just don’t see it getting better.”

Writer Hal Lindsay once said, “Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only for one second without hope.” If this is true, I feel I am living in a “spiritual pandemic” that is attacking most believers whether young or old. We have become the proverbial person holding up signs saying “The end of the world is ~~near~~ here!” They say this, not from an evangelical perspective but, from a perspective of fear and cynicism.

At this point I need to explain something. Until the center of power shifted to western Europe and the Americas, previous societies believed that time was cyclical not linear. We have been raised to see time as linear, but as I study history I see how it could be seen as cyclical (and I believe that). Times go through waves much like a pendulum swings to and fro. There are times of relative ease and times where it seems simple to spread the Gospel (think of the 1970’s through the early 2000’s). But there were also times of difficulty and darkness, such as it feels we are living in now. When you see it like this (cyclical) you may find it easier to understand that times don’t just get worse and worse. You begin to see that it is a “season”. Long seasons perhaps, but they are seasons. But what does all this have to do with hope?

We are just a week from Easter and already into Spring. How many of you are afraid the grass won’t poke through the dry dead ground? Which of you are mourning the dried leaves that fell last Fall with no hope in sight? I’m sure none of you are. You know that the grass is coming and those small buds will soon cover trees everywhere. You’re even preparing your yard devices to make your lawn look good. Why would you do that? Because you know that it’s Spring and you know without a doubt life is coming.

So here’s a hard question. Do you have more faith in the creation than you do in the Creator? You haven’t thought twice about the grass and leaves coming but you wonder if it’s ever going to get better. You look around and think all hope is lost, or at least hidden. But you’ve forgotten this is a season and Spring ALWAYS follows Winter.

The only thing that doesn’t change nor cycle is God. And that is where our hope is found!

From My Heart,

*Billy*