

## Time for Everything, Even Change – 11-13-2024

Some have a hard time w/change... but like it when it changes for the better.

- Fact is, **we're been created for change.** *Fall reminds us, it's beautiful.*
  - o Don't conform to be like this world, "let God change the way U think"  
**Rom. 12:2 We're designed to be transformed. New Creatures.**
  - o In an instant, the trumpet will sound, dead will be raised imperishable, we'll be changed. **1 Cor. 15:52**

Change is part of life. *"The only thing constant in life is change"* Seasons...

**Ecclesiastes 3** says there is a time & season for everything.

Some translations say: "A time for every purpose under heaven"

- God purposefully creates time, seasons, & change.

**We have little control over change**, but God does. He directs & orders it.

He orders change, diversity, & even orchestrates opposites.

<sup>NIV 2</sup> a time to be **born** and a time to **die**,

a time to **plant** and a time to **uproot**, NLT – plant/harvest

- We have both celebrations & funerals. Beginnings & endings.
  - o Beware of assuming things last forever. They don't.
  - o People & situations change. Appreciate the now. Live in/ moment.
- We plant & we harvest. Both involve work. Time. In between, patience.
  - o One is done w/hope & expectation . . . the other w/gratitude.
  - o Be hopeful about/future, expect good things. Plant what /to grow.
  - o Appreciate what has bloomed in your life. . . what God made grow.

<sup>3</sup> a time to **kill** and a time to **heal**,

a time to **tear down** and a time to **build** [up, NLT],

- **Time** does not heal . . . God heals, in time. When we're ready.
- Some relationships **should be healed**, some should not. Time to **evaluate**.
  - o Some things can be repaired, some need to start over.
  - o Start new church easier than resurrecting a dead one... why?
    - Negativity is destructive. Habits need to change to build up.
  - o Recognize this truth – some things need to be eliminated so other things can be built up.

- 4 a time to **weep** and a time to **laugh**,  
a time to **mourn** and a time to **dance**,
- Some get stuck in weeping & mourning. Stuck in darkness.
    - o Weeping may endure for a night... joy comes in the morning. **Ps 30:5**
  - Time to Dance. Joy. As the ark returned, David danced before the Lord.
    - o Look for reasons to dance. God's still at work... reasons all around.
- 5 a time to **scatter stones** and a time to **gather** them,  
a time to **embrace** & a time to **refrain from embracing**, [NLT: time to turn away]
- There is a time to **share our wealth**/resources, but also a **time to gather**.
    - o Gather doesn't mean hoard. **Gather means** bring together, take in.
    - o You can't give what U don't have; **gather & wait for time to scatter**.
  - Time to embrace: **hold someone close** . . . but we also have to **let go**.
    - o Give people the freedom to develop, grow . . . and **change**.
      - Change is maturity. . . It's becoming better versions...
- 6 a time to **search** and a time to **give up**,  
a time to **keep** and a time to **throw away**,
- We don't like to quit/give up... failed. When you've done all u can do, **stop**.
    - o **Eph. 6:13** – “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to **stand**.”
    - o Sometimes you have to just stand, let God do the rest.
  - Time to keep, throw away. Some transl say: **time to gain, time to lose**.
    - o There are things we've been trying to keep, hold onto... need to lose!
    - o **Lose** bad attitudes, negativity, fear, control, selfish, ...and people.
      - **Gain**: hope, optimism, love, joy, peace, passion, zest for life . . .
- 7 a time to **tear** and a time to **mend**,  
a time to be **silent** and a time to **speak**,
- **Like vs. 3** - we tear down & build up. But this is tear & mend. **Sewing**.
  - **Mend clothing** is repair imperfections that develop from being well-worn: holes, tears, missing buttons, or permanent stains.
    - o Some people have holes, missing pieces, stained/blemished.
    - o We're to love & help others mend. Show: **God puts us back together**
  - Time to be **silent/speak**. Our mouths can get us in so much trouble.

- **James 3:7-8** tells us we can tame animals, “but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.”
- **James 3:5-6** says: small spark can start a forest fire - “the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.”
  - **Time** for some to be silent. Put out fire. Don’t say all u think.

<sup>8</sup> a time to **love** and a time to **hate**,  
a time for **war** and a time for **peace**.

- **Amos 5:15** says: “Hate evil, love what is good.”
- **War/Peace**. I don’t know the future, but praying for peace.
  - **Rom. 12:18** – “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”
  - Live as though peace depends on you. Don’t count on others to make things right, pick up the pieces...

**NLT 9-13** – “<sup>9</sup>What do people really get for all their hard work? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. <sup>11</sup>Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup>So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. <sup>13</sup>And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.”

- Work isn’t just a result of the fall of Adam/Eve.
  - Gen. 2:<sup>15</sup> - “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. “
- **Work** is a gift of God, given for our enjoyment & blessing. It makes us useful; purpose. Gives **meaning** to our time on earth, **joy** to our life.
  - The “fruit of labor” means we are fulfilled.
    - Even when retired, we need something to do.
      - Want to be happy? Get to Work. Work at what you enjoy. If you don’t enjoy it, change it.
- Our Life is part of bigger plan than we can understand.
- We’ve been planned, purposed, & designed w/ meaning & intention.

**Conclusion:** everything has a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

We all have seasons in our lives:

Seasons of change & steady.

Seasons of smooth sailing & hurricanes.

Seasons of joy & grief.

Seasons of goodness & darkness.

There is a [season for you to shine](#).

- And in the in-between, God is present with you. He'll lead you through.