



# ***THE CHALLENGE OF DISCERNING SEASONS***

**KNOWING WHEN MY SEASON CHANGES**

with PASTOR MICHAEL L. HENDERSON SR.

# THE PURPOSE OF EVERY SEASON IN LIFE

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ECCLESIASTES 3:



## **A Time for Everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 NASB)**

**3** There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every matter under heaven—

**2** A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

**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 weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

<sup>5</sup> A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;  
A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

<sup>6</sup> A time to search and a time to give up as lost;  
A time to keep and a time to throw away.

<sup>7</sup> A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;  
A time to be silent and a time to speak.

<sup>8</sup> A time to love and a time to hate;  
A time for war and a time for peace.



# The God-Given Task

<sup>9</sup> What benefit *is there for* the worker *from that* in which he labors? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the task which God has given the sons of mankind with which to [a]occupy themselves.

## God Set Eternity in the Heart of Mankind

<sup>11</sup> He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without *the possibility that* mankind will find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

We all experience change and transition in life.

Sometimes life is exciting, dynamic, and we feel on top of the world.

Other times we just want to go away and escape the situation.



We must understand the seasons in life and the reasons for it.

God has a plan and a purpose to make your life beautiful through all trials and circumstances in life, (health, money, friends, marriage, etc.).



God has us in a process.

It is during the tough seasons that we often grow the most in our character. It is difficult to form outstanding character in seasons of pure prosperity.

This is one reason why God ordains seasons where we must fight when things do not come easily.



Being single and wanting to be married – for most people its only a season.

There can be seasons of study, unemployment and other seasons of prosperity where work is abundant.



Don't try to push something in the wrong season.

Don't look back wishing for your favorite season to return.

Forget what lies behind and push forward to what lies ahead.



THINGS TO KNOW  
ABOUT EVERY SEASON  
IN LIFE

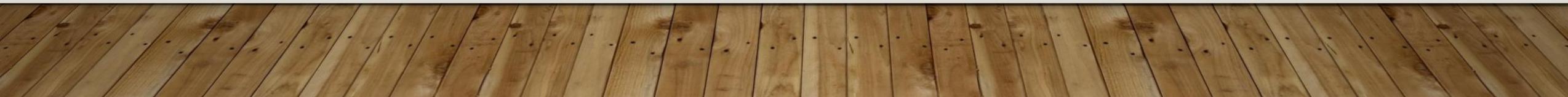
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# 1. NO MATTER WHAT SEASON YOU ARE IN, NO SEASON LASTS FOREVER.

- ❖ Change is always on its way.
- ❖ Good and bad seasons come and go.
- ❖ Bad seasons do not last forever.
- ❖ Good seasons of external blessing do not last forever in this life.

*"Now in my prosperity I said, "I shall never be moved."  
(Psalm 30:6)*



## **2. CHANGE OF SEASONS IS NOT A SIGN THAT YOU ARE A GOOD OR BAD PERSON.**

When bad things happen its not a sign that you are a bad person. Its just a sign that bad things are happening.

Bad things do happen to good people. Job had good seasons, but he is remembered for the terrible time of oppression and loss he faced. Yet he was a righteous man. Don't assume that you are worse than others if you suffer loss or go through a trial.

*"As long as the earth remains, there will be springtime and harvest, winter and summer, day and night." (Genesis 8:22)*

There are going to be seasons until Jesus returns and maybe beyond.



### **3. NEVER LET THE SEASON YOU ARE IN DEFINE YOU.**

- ❖ Don't change what you believe according to what season you are in. People often make bad decisions in tough seasons. When you are in a challenging or difficult season, don't do too much.

In the life of Joseph, we see that the season of prosperity will always be preceded by pits and prison. Character is developed in the pits and prisons. God's plan for Joseph to be a great ruler never changed because he was put in the pit or in the prison.

God is still with you whether you are in a pit, prison or palace.



## **4. MOST SEASONS ARE FOLLOWED BY OPPOSITE SEASONS.**

We don't control everything in life.

Life has a way of popping up with different things.

❖ KEEP THE DREAM IN YOUR HEART AT ALL TIMES.

❖ Don't give up your God-given dreams because your circumstances have turned sour.

You don't know what God can do.



## 5. WE NEED TO BUILD CONSISTENCY IN EVERY SEASON.

Paul told Timothy: *"Preach the word of God, be instant in season and out of season."* (2 Timothy 4:2)

- ❖ Be consistent.
- ❖ Do the work that the season you are in requires.
- ❖ Preparation is necessary in order to reap a harvest.

*A sluggard does not plow in season. So, when the harvest time comes, he looks but finds nothing (Prov 20:4).*

## 6. LEARN FROM EVERY SEASON THAT YOU ARE IN.

Every season has life lessons.

What you learn in one season will help you become wiser when you go through the next season, or it will be useful when a friend goes through that season.

You can learn things in your dark seasons that enable you to minister hope and stability to others who will face these things in the future.

Don't despair if there are trials. God is with you in it and will bring you through it.



## **7. KEEP THE RIGHT SEASON IN YOUR HEART.**

When there is a season of conflict, GUARD YOUR HEART.

Our heart condition greatly influences the course and situations of our life because God crafts circumstances according to the lessons we need to learn.

We can't control what happens around us, but we can control what happens inside us. You can't control how people treat you, but you can control how you respond to what they do.



## 8. PREPARE FOR THE NEXT SEASON.

*"Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest."* (Ecclesiastes 11:4)

- ❖ When things are tough, do what you know you need to do.
- ❖ Prepare for the time when the favorable winds will blow again.
- ❖ Have a sense of fight. Don't allow the season to make you resign to whatever is happening.



## 9. GOD IS AT WORK IN EVERY SEASON.

We can be confident that God is working things out for our good no matter how things are going in our external world.

God's main purpose is to prepare and form us for eternity, to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. When we understand that, we can understand that we are not going to have easy seasons all the time.

*He will be like a tree planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. (Ps 1:3).*

Whether we see fruit in our current season or not, God is still at work, preparing something good for us.

