

SEASONS

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

- I. **Life, walk with God and ministry** consist of seasons that are ever changing: **nothing stays the same**
 - A. Just look at life and how it has various seasons in it that bring us thru Constant change
 1. Example our **family life** consists of seasons & change
 - a. get married, have children who go on to mature & have their own family
 - b. which in turn brings your personal life into various seasons of change
 - c. and if you do not adjust to these seasons of change, there is nothing left of your marriage in your latter years
 - B. Even our walk with God goes through various seasons, especially when it come to learning how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit
 1. When we are babes in Christ, Our Heavenly Father does many **external things** & **external signs** on our behalf, in order for us to catch His leadings
 - a. but as we mature in The Lord these things also cease to a great degree
 - b. Yet, when Believers do not recognize a change of seasons in their walk with God they **cry out to God for a sign** when attempting to find God's will
 - C. Example: Israel in the wilderness:
 1. There was a season when God led Israel by a **cloud** by day & a **Pillar of fire** by night:
 - a. Ex 13:21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.
 - (1) this cloud & pillar of fire led them
 - (2) as well as protected from the sun
 - (3) and provided them heat in the desert at night

2. there were times when Israel would stay in one place for a season
 - a. and the find the cloud & pillar moving in a new direction, so they would have to take down the tent & get on the move
 - (1) Ex 40:36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.
 - 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.
3. there was a season when God fed Israel with **manna** while they wandered in the wilderness:
 - a. But when Israel entered into the Promised land the cloud & pillar of fire disappeared & the manna ceased:
 - (1) Josh 5:12 Then the **manna ceased** on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.
4. **The leading & provision of God for Israel changed.... A season In their walk with God came to an end**
 - a. If Israel could have attempted to relive the former moves of God
 - (1) like water coming fro the rock
 - (2) to parting of the red sea
 - (a) and they would not find God in the past re-doing what He Formerly did
 - b. Israel could have tried to go back into the desert and look for the pillar of fire & cloud to lead them
 - (a) and they would not have found The Lord moving that way again
 - c. Israel could have kept looking for manna to fall as their source of provision
 - (a) but God was no longer manifesting in that way

D. **Elijah** is a good example of being open to seasons of change:

1 Kings 17:3 "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

4 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the Ravens to feed you there."

5 So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by The Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

7 And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no Rain in the land.

8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying,

9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

1. For a season God hid the prophet by the brook of Cherith

a. God provided for the prophet by having him drink of the brook and sent ravens to bring Elijah food

2. vs 7 "**after a while the brook dried up**"

a. Drying up our brooks is one of the ways God gets our attention about a change of seasons coming upon us

(1) Elijah could have rebuked the dry brook

(2) Elijah could have confessed the raven were coming back again

(a) but he would have missed God due to being out of season

3. vs 8 "**The word of The Lord came to him**"

a. Once your brook is dried up, fine tune your spiritual ears for The word of The Lord coming your way:

(1) it is your life source for direction & provisions

(2) and keeps you in step with what God is doing today

b. The Word of The Lord came be:

(1) a Rhema word from scripture

(2) godly counsel that comes into your life

(3) preaching / teaching that ignites faith in your heart

(4) or even a proven prophetic word

4. As Elijah obeyed The word of The Lord God moved on his behalf

a. but also saved the life of a widow woman & her son

(1) can you see how important it is to flow with God's seasons for your life

Walk with God & ministry

**D. How many Christians & ministers are making the same mistake
By attempting to re-live former revivals & trying to convince
God to do the old things over again**

1. and failing to discern a change in seasons

2. One of the main reasons we resist or are insensitive to a new season
Coming into our life, walk with God, and ministry is:

a. due to our need for **SECURITY**:

(1) we try to keep our life & God in a box, nice neat package so we
can remain in **control** ...therefore we resist **change**:

b. we mistakenly think that God will continue to provide the same way
He did in the past

c. we mistakenly think that God is going to meet us & move the same
way He did in the past

d. we mistakenly think that God will lead us the same way he did before

3. Just as Israel had to discern the new season of God as they went from
the wilderness to the Promise land

a. also must accept the fact does the same with you & I

4. 2 Cor 5:7 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

a. If we fail to walk by faith, we will always be out of step with the
season God is leading us into

5. Isa 43:19 Behold, I will do a **new thing**, Now it shall spring forth;
Shall you not know it?

a. we get excited about verses like this

b. but, if we are not sensitive to the change of season, we can never
partake of the new thing God desires to do in:

(1) our life, walk with God, ministry, career

E. Example: When I was a pastor in Middleport Ohio, all we had to do to grow
The church was:

1. Hold three day revival: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

a. and then hold the guest speaker over on Monday for Full Gospel Business
Men meeting:

(1) people almost always got saved

(2) and families were added to the church every month

2. Today: church services & revivals do not grow the church

a. the lost do not come to church

b. in fact most of your congregation will make no attempt to come to church

other than Sunday morning:

3. **The Season has changed:**

- a. We need to understand that the church will not grow just because we are holding church services
- b. But: I can decree the New thing / the New Season God is bringing into our midst
 - (1) The believer must become active in ministry beyond the four walls of the Church
 - (a) in every day life to market place ministry
 - (b) doing the work of the ministry out in the world
 - © and then bringing your harvest back into the local church

III. In order for that to take place the believer must Come into **spiritual maturity** :

A. Israel had to go from following a cloud & pillar of fire

Israel had to go from looking for God's provision of manna to:

1. Deut 8:3 " that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but **man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.**
 - a. Can you see the seasons of change & spiritual progression God was bringing Israel through?
 - (1) The Lord wanted Israel to learn to live by:
 - (a) not the cloud, or pillar of fire
 - (b) not the manna
 - © not the water flowing out of the rock
 - (a) but maturing spiritually to where they learned **to live by the current Word God is speaking out of His mouth**
 - (b) God wanted Israel to go from following signs to following His word
 - © God wanted Israel to walk in step with each season by stepping out in Faith on the Word / Rhema The Lord spoke to them
 - (d) Israel had to mature spiritually & recognize the change of seasons:

B. **Jesus expects the same from you & I....**Jesus said:

1. Matt 4:4 Man shall not **live by** bread alone, but by **every word that proceeds from The mouth of God.**"
 - a. Elijah understood this principle and was able to walk successfully through various seasons of life & ministry
 - b. Elijah was spiritually matured and understood the seasons of God for his life, ministry, walk with God

2. Has your brook dried up?
 - a. If so, a season of change has come upon you
 - b. and it will require maturity on your part in order to enter your new season
 - c. and get ready to receive the “word of the Lord” into your life that will direct you into your new season

C. Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

1. The word “**sons**” is speaking of a person who has matured spiritually
 - a. It did not say child of God, or babe in Christ...it said “**sons of God**”
2. It tells us that sons are not lead externally by signs, nor circumstances
 - a. “sons” mature believers are led by The Holy Spirit
 - b. sons discern & walk into the new season God is bringing into their life, walk with God and ministry
 - c. “sons” live by the Rhema word that proceeded out of the mouth of God
 - d. “sons” hear & obey the still small voice of the Holy Spirit

IV. Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

A. “For the time is near”

1. Jesus was about to address the seven churches listed in the book of Revelations
 - a. and He says: “The TIME is near”
 - (1) The Lord was about to bring each church & the believers in these churches Into a new season....things were going to change:
2. CHANGE a new season was coming into their life, walk with God & ministry
 - a. No longer would they be able to sit around and talk about the way it use to be
 - b. No longer was God going to move in their midst the same way He did in the past
 - c. it was time for the church to grow up & grow into the new thing God was about to do in their midst
3. Jesus told them “The time is near” / The Lord was preparing them, getting their Attention in regards to a new time / a new season....the time is near

B. I believe this church and many of you individually, yet as members as a part of This local body: the time is near.....your brook is dried up

1. will you quit looking into the past for God
2. will you step out in faith into the new season God has for your life
3. Will you let God out of box and allow Him to move in a fresh, new, deeper Way in your life

