

# Be Thankful in Every Season

(Edit of "Seasons" Nov 2016)

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thess 5:16-18

**What is a season?**

**Spring Summer Winter Fall (Autumn)**

Different hemispheres

**Definitions from Google**

- *each of the four divisions of the year (spring, summer, autumn, and winter) marked by particular weather patterns and daylight hours, resulting from the earth's changing position with regard to the sun.*
- *a period of the year characterized by a particular climatic feature or marked by a particular activity, event, or festivity.*
- *"the rainy season"*
- *the time of year when a particular fruit, vegetable, or other food is plentiful and in good condition.*
- *a proper or suitable time.*
- *an indefinite or unspecified period of time; a while.*
- *a set or sequence of related television programs.*
- *add salt, herbs, pepper, or other spices to (food).*
- *add a quality or feature to (something), especially so as to make it more lively or exciting.*
- *make (wood) suitable for use as timber by adjusting its moisture content to that of the environment in which it will be used.*

Could probably make a sermon from any one of these secular definitions

**Favorite season?**

Growing up, winter

Now, probably early-mid fall, late summer

**Seasoning on food**

Too much season(ing) will ruin the food. Just enough brings the flavor out.

Seasoning can make you bitter, savory or sweet.

**Matthew 5:13**

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

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**[Genesis 1:14-19 NKJV] Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. [He made] the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that [it was] good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.**

#### **V14**

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and **seasons**, and for days and years;

Mo'wed

- appointed place, appointed time, meeting
- appointed time
- appointed time (general)
- sacred season, set feast, appointed season
- appointed meeting
- appointed place
- appointed sign or signal
- tent of meeting

Reminds me of when Adam and God walked in the garden in the evening

We love appointed times

TGIF

We still use them today, calendars, yearly feasts, and you'd better not be using the horoscope  
But the point is still there people pay attention to the sky and for all of human history we've used them to track dates, harvests, events and more

**Thanksgiving - what it is**

**Can we track the times in our lives?**

Not to the stars in heaven, but perhaps shining or dark moments in our lives?

**Psalm 90:12**

**So teach [us] to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

**God wants us to number our days.**

We need to be cognisant of how much time we have on earth (presumably)

**Psalm 90:10**

**The days of our lives [are] seventy years; And if by reason of strength [they are] eighty years, Yet their boast [is] only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.**

**It's wise to take account of our lives**

We need to seek for God's wisdom in how to handle our failures, our successes, and ultimately what God has next for us - in whatever season that is

**2 Timothy 4:2**

**Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

**James 1:23**

**For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;**

Our conscience, pricked by God and the word, should not be ignored, especially when time is short

Timeouts at the end of a game, or half-time/between periods, analyzing your plays, strategies with time left

**Timeouts in axis and allies**

**All to determine the best course of action**

Maybe your budget, we have \$X left until payday, how do we get there?

To keep on going on like you've been going

Playing like you've been playing

Spending like you've been spending

Living like you've been living

And expect to win when the results so far aren't a win? That's foolishness in any activity, but especially our spiritual lives

God wants us to reach heaven, bring others, and arrive with as much return on investment as possible.

**Psalm 58:11**

So that men will say, "Surely [there is] a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth."

God says there IS a reward for the righteous

Being thankful and not taking things for granted.

Taking seasons for granted. Always looking to the next one

Wanting to skip ahead or rewind

Slippery places. God might have you in a hard season because he doesn't want you in a slippery place.

**Moses, the Prophets, David**

It seems most, if not all, of the people God used in the Bible as our examples, as his followers, servants, close friends - all went through drastic seasons. The Lord himself even.

**The life of Joseph**

**Full of seasons**

Favored son, coat, hated by brothers, sold into slavery, finds favor, works for Potiphar, falsely accused, forgotten again in prison, interprets Pharaoh's dream by God's insight, second in command of all of Egypt...all to save his family and Israel

That's a lot of hard seasons. Good season, bad season, worse season, good season, better season, horrible season, worse season, best season yet, even better season (reunited), family saved, nation saved

Talk about seasons!

But he wasn't bitter. He wasn't hardened. He was right where God wanted him to be.

**Genesis 50:18-21**

Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we [are] your servants."

Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for [am] I in the place of God?

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; [but] God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as [it is] this day, to save many people alive.

"Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph knew his place and he knew God's place...heaven. Above all. Perfect wisdom.

#### Isaiah 55:8-9

**"For My thoughts [are] not your thoughts, Nor [are] your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

#### God knows best, who are we to judge?

Kids think they know better, sometimes they do, but experience of parents can bring a lot to the table. I've been through a lot - as I'm sure we all have - and i want my kids to learn from what I've gone through - good and bad - so that they get the seasoning now, that they don't have to get it the hard way.

#### Daniel 2:20-22

**Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.**

**And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.**

**He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what [is] in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.**

#### God knows best and he's able to change seasons on earth for us -

Way more than El Nino/La Nina!

There are seasons for nations. Seasons for rulership.

Election year, talk of politics, past presidents, administrations

We talk of decades, cultural seasons - everything comes back into fashion eventually (boy, I hope not)

**[Esther 4:14 NKJV] "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for [such] a time as this?"**

#### Ecclesiastes 7:10

**Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.**

Many times, during seasons, we look to past seasons and wish we were there instead (or wish we could go forward to them)

**A lot of times we think the older seasons were better, but they weren't  
The enemy loves to give us rose colored glasses**

Old relationships, habits, friends, situations - all can look good - but they're over for a reason, some for good reason

**But i understand the good seasons that over**

Maybe losing a loved one, a happy season, a season without struggle

**But the reality is, that they aren't better -**

**Ecc 11:9-10**

**Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.**

**Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth [are] vanity.**

**Looking back is what turned lot's wife to a pillar of salt - way over seasoned to the point of death**

Holding on to the past won't change the present for the better, it will make it worse  
Imagine holding on to last winter as the summer comes - you'll die of heat stroke with all of your winter clothes on at the beach. Or holding on to your flip flops and shorts when next winter comes - you'll freeze!

Looking back, dwelling on the past, not only hurts us more because we can't go back, but it begins to destroy our present and future

**Reminiscing can be good, remaining is bad.**

**1 Cor 13:11-12**

**When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

**For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.**

**There comes a time to put away the past.**

**What about hard times? Dry times?**

famine/govt induced? In Venezuela  
Fleeing, rioting, government fist

**Can we remain thankful in the bad times?**

**[Job 2:10 NKJV] But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.**

### **Psalm 16**

*(excerpt) I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.*

*I have set the LORD always before me; Because [He is] at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.*

*For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

*You will show me the path of life; In Your presence [is] fullness of joy; At Your right hand [are] pleasures forevermore.*

### **When it's dark, we need to turn on the light**

My kids love my flashlights

Some are so bright I can't let her play with

Nightlights

### **When it's dark, we need to focus on whatever light we have available**

**When it's cold, we need the heat, blankets**

**We'll cling to certain verses in certain seasons and in other seasons other verses will minister to us.**

### **Remember what God told you when it was light**

Old verses, messages, scriptures, insights...write them down

A lot of times God will give you a heads-up, a weather report, for the coming season - way better than Farmer's almanac!

If he hadn't, or we hadn't been listening, things would be a lot different

**Sometimes it's all you have is your heart to instruct you. Sometimes it's hard to hear God, or perhaps he's being quiet on purpose.**

A lot of times, when i struggle, or want to go a different direction, or want to bail, have a pity party, whatever, God will use verses he's given me, spoken to me, or I've just read in the past that will float up in my heart and instruct me

Is 30:21...left or the right, mom used to always share that with me and pray it for me

**We need the light of the scripture to cut through the darkness.**

### **Ecclesiastes 3 (1-17)**

There is a time and a season for everything

Moving - *i don't know if I can even count how many times I've moved in life. - at least 15 (more if you count several moves in brief history of college, between places in NY, between places coming down here)*

Being single

Being married

Having kids

Different groups of friends growing up

Different schools

Different groups of friends

People moving away

Different jobs

Different interests

Different numbers of kids!

### **2 Cor 6:2 (quoting Isaiah 49)**

**For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.**

Whatever season you are in, God wants you to turn to him. To call on him. He made the seasons. He allows the seasons, the storms, the day and the night...but we can't navigate them alone, we're not supposed to. Today is the day of salvation - no matter the season. \*people sometimes wait for the bad

### **Phil 4:11-13**

**Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Just like the seasons around us, we can't escape them (even if you move to Florida or California)

Heart of wisdom - look forward to and be prepared for the eternal season in Heaven

**This thanksgiving, this holiday season, be thankful. We will be most satisfied in thanksgiving.**