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The Naz Prayer Ministry



In Every Season

Nearly every winter here in Ohio, my mind frequently drifts back to the various times in my life when I lived beyond the reach of snow and cold. There was southern California, southern Texas and northern Mexico, the short time in Arizona, and the West Indies, and the several years living 500 miles back in the interior of Papua New Guinea's highlands.

Seasons in PNG, like any tropical area, consists of the rainy season and the "dry" season which more accurately should be labeled as the "less rainy" season. Fellow missionaries often seemed to pine for the familiar change of seasons with the colors of Fall and Spring, and even the winter snows. In my opinion the yearning for snow had to be rooted in a temporary onset of tropical delirium, something I successfully avoided. I honestly never missed the seasonal changes that come with living in the Midwest.

The beginning of another school year and its season of predictable changes in schedules and wardrobes is as good a time as any to be reminded that we all encounter a variety of seasons in our lives. Some we may welcome, but others can catch us off guard, leaving us with feelings of uncertainty or even helplessness.

Yet even in the most difficult seasons, there is hope.

Note the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1. (Surprise. Pete Seeger's song lyrics in the 1950s did not come first.)

For everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.

Every purpose in God's plan will be realized in God's own timing. Human beings may fill their days with all manner of things that are not consistent with God's purposes, but God's sovereignty is evidenced by the fact that no matter what kind of evil men propose or pursue, God's purposes will prevail. The greatest evidence of God's power and authority is not found in the miracles themselves, but in the fact that no matter what twists or turns human choices create, God will still direct the course of history toward the accomplishment of His own designs.

Since God's value system is focused on His desire to have a relationship with us, His purposes are always designed to restore us to Himself. Floods may come, illness may strike, losses may occur, and evil may come against us, but God appears in the storms and reveals His love. Or, when the season of life brings plenty, provides a bounty, when we may flourish in any number of ways, God is also there to remind us that from His hand comes the blessing of thirst-quenching rain and growth.

Life here in the confines of time and space will always have its rhythms of laughter and sorrow, of plenty and want, of life and death. Yet God's eternal tenacity to draw us to Him never ends, and more than His eternal objective to move our relationship with Him from the limits of time to the arena of forever.

Take Your Next Step

Begin to review the seasons of life you have already experienced. If you were unaware of God's voice wooing you to His side, revisit those times and discover His presence in the story. He was there, and He was extending His grace and strength.

What season are you experiencing now? Listen closely, and you will discover that you are not traveling this part of your journey alone. God is there, ready to reveal Himself as the God of your personal history.

Face each day with an invitation to the God whose purpose is to love you and walk with you in the garden of your life.