

2. Preach In And Out Of Season

2 Timothy 4:2, NIV – *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.*

- “Preach”** – “to proclaim as a herald or representative of another, using dialectical style, dialogue, and discussion
- “To lecture or explain clearly, to dialogue, and to discuss
- “In season, out of season”** – “at all seasons; whether they regard your speaking as seasonable or unseasonable.”

3. Receive The Word

4. Forsake Not The Gathering Of The Brethren

Hebrews 10:25, NIV – *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

- How can my brothers come along side in my need and struggles, if I avoid them?

CONCLUSION / CHALLENGE

TIMES AND SEASONS

Kathy Hibbert – March 12, 2006

THE NECESSITY OF SEASONS

1. We Live In A World Of Seasons

2. The Bible Speaks Of Seasons

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, NIV – *(1) To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: ...*

3. Things Just Don't Stay The Same!

4. Without Change We Can Get Stagnant

5. We Need The Ongoing Change Of Seasons

6. We Must Recognize The Season We Are In

- If we do not recognise the season we are in, or the season our fellow sojourners are in, we can be frustrated, uncooperative, and get stuck. Misunderstanding, impatience, and confusion can result, with ourselves and others.

THE SEASONS

Psalm 1:3, NIV – *“He [and we] is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”*

1. Spring

- A time of excitement, enthusiasm, and growth.

2. Summer

- In our spiritual summers, ministry and it's fruit are evident and abundant

3. Autumn

- We may question if our autumns are really falls, where we have fallen away from our faith, or we fear we will be judged by our lack of fruit.
- Sometimes it is just the Autumn season, where we are being stripped.
- If we embrace our autumns, these times allow us to rid ourselves of potentially destructive attitudes, beliefs, habits, relationships, etc., and in doing so we may be saved from a fall.

4. Winter

- Our winters could be killing the very things that would try to kill us!
- Embraced, the winter months can build in us great strength .
- At the end of our winters, God, skilfully, tenderly, but unwaveringly, lops off our branches – He prunes us!
- It is only as we are pruned, that new branches can grow in and be stronger, that the tree will be better balanced and sturdier, that the fruit will be sweeter, and the tree less prone to damage in the storms it faces.

HOW CAN WE GROW THROUGH OUR SEASONS WELL?

- Recognising our current season helps, so that we can cooperate.
- And there are some things to embrace, that are always in season.
- And there are a few things to avoid, that are never in season!

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE NEVER IN SEASON

Ephesians 4:31, NIV – *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

1 Timothy 6:11, NIV – *But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.*

1. Persevere In Doing Good

Galatians 6:9, NIV - *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

James 1:2-4, NIV - *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

- How can we persevere, during the tough times?

Philippians 3:13-14, NIV – *(13) ... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

- How can we persevere, during the tough times?

- Keep our focus on the goal, not the pain
- Remember God's promise, that we would reap the reward, that we would be mature, complete, lacking nothing