

# FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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From the Pastor's Desk"

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## THE SEASONS WHICH COME AND GO

***We are approaching what most people refer to as the happiest season of the year: Thanksgiving and Christmas.*** Yet, for those who are experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one or have been enduring some kind of trial over a period of time, it may not seem the happiest season of the year. I wish that I could give you three or four points that could resolve such a dilemma, but I can't, because there are no short term solutions for people who have heavy hearts.

The Book of Jeremiah said, *"They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace."* Jeremiah 6:14 NIV Another translation put it this way: *"They have healed the brokenness of my people superficially, saying, peace, peace. But there is no peace."*

What the prophet Jeremiah was talking about were the false prophets who had prophesied prosperity to his people when there would be none, because God had determined that there should be nothing because they continued to live and practice sin. They were being deceived by the priests and the prophets who were making promises which would not be coming to pass. The problem with all this is—when people are hurting they will grasp at anything and anybody who will tell them something they are desperate to hear.

Now, I am not saying that everybody who has troubles is because they are sinning. Because all of us, saint or sinner, have troubles from time to time. Even Jesus told his followers, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33 Now isn't that interesting, the *"Prince of Truth"* prophesied *"tribulation"* for the true believers, while false prophets prophesy *"peace."* Those who are wise, should listen to the Master.

The advantage a believer has, is that regardless of the outcome of our trial, we know that ultimately we will have our rest in Him. Recently I read of an elderly woman who was rushed to the hospital due to a number of physical problems. She loved the Lord with all of her heart and had served Him faithful throughout her years. Her son came to visit her and tried to cheer her up by saying, *"Now, Mom, don't worry about what you are going through, because in a few days you will be going home."* She kindly replied, *"Oh, I know that. I just don't know which home it will be."*

### LIFE IS LIKE THE SEASONS

Much of life is like the various seasons of the year. Now, I realize that most of the people who read my newsletter, don't experience the four natural seasons like most people do throughout the United States. I was born in Michigan....and we had seasons....all four seasons. We had the spring time and autumn and that was not so bad. But it was the cold winters and the hot summers that often times called for endurance. I am not saying that I did not enjoy the snow for a few days or summer time. They each had their good and bad times. But in Michigan we were always looking for a change in the seasons.

I am sure that there are times when each of us can accept what life hands us at least for a few days. But when winter time keeps hanging on....it is then that we start praying for a change in the seasons of life. But in reality, we need the various seasons of life, because they are much like in nature when they can be most productive in what they produce...in bringing crops and fruit to maturity and making delicious fruit from its season.

**In Ecclesiastes, chapter three, we are told there is a season for everything.**  
*“A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born...And a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill. And a time to heal; A time to break down and a time to build up;”*

Adam Clarke's Commentary said, *“God by His providence governs the world, and has determined particular things and operations to particular times. In those times such things may be done with propriety and success; but if we neglect the appointed seasons, we sin against this providence, and become the authors of our own distresses.”*

### **LIVING JOYFULLY IN THE HARD SEASONS**

This author wishes that he could say that he has always lived joyfully in the hard seasons of his life, but that would be a lie. I have had to learn to accept life as it comes but it probably has taken most of my seventy-eight years to perfect that, and even now I find that it is still a challenge. A dear pastor friend of ours once said, “Don't get old, you won't like it.” He died at 70 years of age. I often thought about what he said and why he probably said it. Yet, when he was dying, he had a battle with that as well. But two weeks before he passed on, his brother told me he had an experience with the Lord that gave him the needed peace for the day of his death.

What I am trying to say in all this is that whatever we must face in life, we need not face it alone. God is in all the seasons. He rides the wind. He walks the stormy seas. He speaks to the weather and it obeys. The seasons come, but they also go. We just need to hide in Him. He is our refuge and an ever present help in the time of our need. We find we sleep better when His words are allowed to speak to us in the night time. Our days go better when we let His words speak to us just before we rise. Always keep a Bible handy; you never know when you will need it the most.

Probably most of the trials in life that we will experience are ones that others have as well. Now, I realize that there is little comfort in the knowledge that others have experienced our pain. Because it is just the knowledge that it is in their past, while our trouble may be in the present, or something you are about to experience in the future. But it should give comfort to know how others felt as well as dealt with their pain and the lessons that their suffering taught them about God, life, and others. This is the value of reading God's Word because it is full of stories of people who endured physical, emotional, and spiritual pain.

**I have learned a great secret in life which I want to leave with you.** When I have had to suffer pain, I have found strength when I took an interest in others who were in pain. In doing so, I found that my pain was not as bad as others who were in pain. I also found it helped me get my mind off of myself and my pain as I reached out to comfort others who were in need such comfort. Then they would receive it when I offered it in the way of prayer, love, and showing an interest in them in their need. You see, if we want the season of our grief to pass, we must not spend it in idleness, but rather in some form of productive activity....and most often that is getting involved in helping others in their pain.

***But let me warn you; not everyone that is in pain will receive you.*** They often times will reject your love and time. Some people, believe it or not, love their misery. It justifies them for being angry and even being mad at God. They will reject the only One who can really help them. When a person rejects God's help there is no way that you or I will be able to help them. That is why the world is in the mess that it is in, because of their rejection of the One who died for them. They have allowed the demons of hell to blind them from their only Deliverer.

If you are rejected by someone that you are trying to help don't let that stop you from reaching out to others who are in pain. There are some people today who are waiting for a person as yourself who will take your precious time and invest in them. When you see them change for the better it will be a real encouragement to you and will return to you blessings beyond your own imagination. Your seasons will come, but also remember they shall also go...just learn to make the best of every season in your life. It will bring you innumerable blessings. Amen.