

seasons



God created you for **NOW**,
not just **NEXT**.

Ephesians 5:15-16a [NIV]

¹⁵ Be very careful, then,
how you live—not as
unwise but as wise,
¹⁶ making the most of
every opportunity...

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 [NIV]

- ¹ There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- ² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Set aside
preference
and look for
PURPOSE.

Philippians 2:13 [NIV]

...for it is God who works
in you to will and to act in
order to fulfill his good
purpose...

Where does God want to take what happened **TO** you
to do something significant **THROUGH** you?

Ecclesiastes 3:11 [NIV]

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

- :: Think of a season you navigated in the past that is particularly memorable.
 - :: Share what it was and why it was significant.
 - :: Where/How did you see God working in it, or not?
- :: Pastor Shawn said, “God created you for now, not just next.”
 - :: Why is it important for us to understand the difference?
 - :: What can happen when we don’t live with awareness of now & next?
 - :: How might this change the way you invest each day?
- :: Read/Reread Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.
 - :: What season(s) stand out to you most in this passage? Why?
 - :: What are ways God can work in that particular season?
- :: Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us God makes all things beautiful.
 - :: How have you seen that to be the case?
 - :: Where are you still waiting to see that happen?
 - :: What might God be waiting for you to do before he does so?
- :: What is 1 thing you can do next to set aside preference & choose purpose?
- :: Ask someone to pray for you & help hold you accountable to take a next step.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – October 10 & 11, 2020
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In every season, God is inviting us to connect more deeply with him, others, and our purpose. Use the brief assessment found here (<https://groupleaders.org/spiritual-pathways-assessment>) to discover more about how God designed you to connect with him, then share your results with someone you trust. Find some time this week to pursue God according to your pathway with him.



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