



THE JOURNEY (Part 2)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; 7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace. 9 What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? 10 I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

FIRST, UNDERSTAND GOD HAS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING:

1. We should become _____ with God running the _____ of our life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

FIRST, UNDERSTAND GOD HAS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING:

2. Being open to God's process helps us _____ our _____ is _____ than we realize.

Ecclesiastes 3:11c

...except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

SECOND, UNDERSTAND GOD STARTED THE PROCESS OF PLANTING:

1. God planted _____ in our _____.

Ecclesiastes 3:11b...He has put eternity in their hearts...

Why?

i. To give us _____.

ii. To place eternal _____ in us.

iii. To place a _____ in us that only God can _____.

SECOND, UNDERSTAND GOD STARTED THE PROCESS OF PLANTING:

2. We are to continue the planting process by sowing the seed of the _____.

Ecclesiastes 3:2

A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Our process of planting includes:

i. _____ of what we plant.

Job 4:8 Even as I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.

ii. _____ what won't _____ good seed.

iii. _____ until there is _____.

THIRD, UNDERSTANDING PHANTOM GROWTH VS. REAL GROWTH:

1. The real thing looks like _____.

Mark 4:13-20 (Jesus said)

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. 18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

THIRD, UNDERSTANDING PHANTOM GROWTH VS. REAL GROWTH:

2. Phantom growth happens when we want the Lord to bless what we _____
_____ to Him.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

THIRD, UNDERSTANDING PHANTOM GROWTH VS. REAL GROWTH:

3. Real _____ of life happens near _____.

Hosea 10:12c

...For it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Conclusion:

Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Galatians 6:9 (Paraphrase)

(In the midst of planting and seeking) don't grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap (a harvest of blessing) if we do not give up.

Reflection:

1. Keep planting the right seeds, don't give in or up!
2. When we plant good seeds, the elements of this world won't affect us.