

The last few months have been some of the most blessed and some of the most challenging of my life. I don't understand how those two things coexist, but they usually do. The season we (*the Rustins & FBC*) are currently in can be described best in one word: ***transition.***

You know – the “in between” times of life. If you live long enough, you begin to recognize those periods that move you out of one season and into the next; not necessarily bad — just different, and, in some ways, disorienting. These are the times that must drive us to the God who never changes. I have been meditating much on Ecclesiastes 3 - “*For everything there is a season, and a time for every activity under heaven.*” Following are some truths that God is teaching me in this time of so much transition.

- Life is marked by seasons. We can't measure simply by days, months, or years. There are definite periods of time when the Lord deals with us in specific ways.
- Every season is different. Read Ecclesiastes 3:2-8. These are the extremes of life and, in time, we experience them all.
- Some seasons are more enjoyable than others. Fall is my personal favorite season of the year, but I can't choose to stay in perpetual autumn! We don't get to pick our season or determine when one begins and another ends. God created seasons, and only He controls them.
- God works in every season. We have seasons of weariness, but He is always strong. We have seasons of discipline, but He is always loving. We have seasons of perplexity, but He is always wise. We have seasons that seem unproductive, but the Lord is always accomplishing His plan. Yes, God works in every season.
- Whatever the current season, it is getting us ready for the next season. Every season prepares us for the next, and even the hard seasons have their purpose.
- Every season is getting us ready for eternity. Solomon's classic description of life's seasons leads to this amazing truth: “*Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11) We see only time; He sees eternity. You might feel as if you are stuck in a particular season of life, but eternal God is preparing you for eternity.
- Instead of trying to change the season, pursue intimacy with God. This is the ultimate focus of all of life! A young Solomon writing Song of Solomon, a middle age Solomon writing Proverbs, an aging Solomon writing Ecclesiastes all needed the same thing - intimacy with God. Rather than trying to get out of the season you are in — ask God to pour into you what He has for this season of your life. It will not be a wasted season if you grow into deeper intimacy with Jesus. Grace & peace, love you. PK