

The Best is Yet to Come (6)

"A Journey to Abundant Life"

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." — John
10:10b (ESV)

God's Best in Every Season

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Romans 8:28)

Introduction: Today, we're going to talk about something we all experience: seasons. I'm not talking about winter, spring, summer, and fall. I'm talking about the seasons of life. Some are filled with sunshine and joy, others with storms and trials, but through it all, God remains faithful. No matter what season of life we are in—God is in control, working all things for our good, teaching us contentment in Christ, and calling us to stay rooted in His Word so that we may bear fruit in every season. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, the preacher reminds us that *"to everything, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."* No matter what season you are in, God has a purpose for it. And then in Romans 8:28, Paul assures us that *"all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose."* So, with these two things in mind, how we can experience God's best in every season of life? By doing the following three things...

I. Trust God in every season (Romans 8:28)

No matter what season you are in, you can be sure of one thing, *God is working behind the scenes. The best manuscript evidence records this verse as "We know that God causes all things..."* Think of what this means to us...

A. It is God who causes everything in the believer's life to eventuate in blessing.

1. "All things" is utterly comprehensive, meaning there is no qualifications or limits.
2. Now, Paul is also NOT saying that God prevents His children from experiencing bad things or things that can harm us.
3. Rather he is saying the Lord takes all things He allows to happen to His beloved children, even the worst things, and turns those things ultimately into blessings

B. Our seasons are not just passing phases of life, but they are divinely designed seasons to help us grow in faith and mature spiritually. (v. 32)

1. God uses different seasons to refine us, (James 1:2-4), (Rom. 5:3-5), (2 Cor. 12:9-10).
2. The waiting seasons teach us to trust His timing, (Gen. 21:1-3).
3. The challenging seasons stretch our faith, (Job 23:10).
4. No matter what our situation – *In ALL things*, our Father will work to produce our unlimited victory and blessing.

C. The believer never need faint in seasons of suffering and trials because he knows that God is at work in the world (Rom 8:28), and that He has a perfect plan (Rom 8:29).

1. God has two purposes in that plan: our good and His glory.
2. Best of all, God's plan is always perfect, and it is going to succeed! (Isa. 60:22)

- a. Nothing ultimately can work against us and succeed because of the Lord. (v.31, 37)
- b. Even temporary harm that may come **to us** will be used by God for our benefit (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

D. The fruitful seasons remind us of His blessings and faithfulness (Deut. 28:2-6). (*Paul says God causes all things to work together for good...*)

1. The best good for us is found v. 29
2. Focusing on God's control rather than our circumstances shifts our perspective. *Instead of asking, "Why is this happening?" we start asking, "What is God teaching me through this?"* (Phil. 4:13,19) (Ps 25:10)

II. Find contentment in Christ: (Philippians 4:11-13)

Paul tells us that he has learned to be content in all circumstances.

A. Contentment does not mean complacency or a lack of ambition. It means finding peace and joy in Christ regardless of external situations.

But true contentment is not about what we have; it's about who we have.

B. Contentment is learned through experience and trust in God.

1. Notice, Paul did not instantly become content—he said he learned it through hardships, hunger, and even imprisonment. (*In all of this God was faithful*)
2. He discovered that God's strength sustains us no matter what we face.
3. Did Paul really believe he could do "all things"? Philippians 4:10-13
4. Paul had come to the conclusion- to whatever and wherever God had called him to, He would give him the strength and enablement to handle it. (*It was this mindset that taught him contentment in every season, and it will do the same for us.*)

C. The secret to contentment is relying on Christ, who provides all that we need.

How do we learn "Paul's kind of contentment" today?

1. Practice gratitude – (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Rev 3:17).
2. Focus on eternal things – Colossians 3:2
3. Surrender control to God – Proverbs 3:5-6
4. Live simply – Hebrews 13:5
5. Serve others – Acts 20:35

III. Bear fruit in all seasons: (Psalm 1:1-3)

Psalm 1 is a wisdom psalm, providing wise counsel on how to live a blessed and fruitful life.

It begins with a contrast of two types of people:

The first person follows worldly wisdom, leading to instability and spiritual barrenness.

The second person, who meditates on God's Word day and night, is blessed and compared to a tree planted by streams of water, bringing forth fruit in every season. The word "blessed" here means more than just happiness; it signifies a deep, abiding joy and spiritual prosperity that comes from walking in obedience to God.

This blessing is not dependent on circumstances but on one's relationship with the Lord. *God has placed you in a specific season, not to wither, but to grow! The key is staying rooted in God's Word.*