

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

By:

J. L. Williams

New Directions International

[www.JLWilliams.net](http://www.JLWilliams.net)

[www.biblicalprinciplesforliving.com](http://www.biblicalprinciplesforliving.com)

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as *signs* to mark *seasons* and days and years...’ (Gen. 1:14).

1. When God created the universe, He established definite *seasons* that His world would annually go through.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

2. His natural world would not be *static* and *unchanging*. It would be *dynamic* and *cyclical*.

- Biblical view = History is ***linear*** (“Alpha Point’ & “Omega Point”)
- Eastern view = History is ***cyclical*** (“Endless Circle” or “Reincarnation”)

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

3. The natural world would go through predictable *sequential seasons*.
- Biblical view = History is **linear** (“Alpha Point’ & “Omega Point”)
  - Eastern view = History is **cyclical** (“Endless Circle” or “Reincarnation”)

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

4. In tropical countries, the climate largely remains the same year round.
5. But even in these equatorial areas of the world, there are still generally two seasons – the *dry season* and *rainy season*.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

6. In other countries these two seasons are known as the “**hot season**” and the “**cold season.**”
7. In other parts of the world, there are four seasons known as **spring**, **summer**, **fall** and **winter**.
8. The cycle of these seasons is determined by the **sun** and **moon**

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

9. Each natural season has its own uniqueness. They are each distinct in many ways from each other. Each season brings changes in *temperature, weather patterns* and *environment*.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## PRINCIPLE:

**“There is a *reason for every season.*  
Everything in the *Natural World* was  
created by God to teach us about the  
*Supernatural World.*”**



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

10. “Everything in the *Natural World* was created by God to teach us about the *Supernatural World.*”

- Everything that we can see was created by God to teach us about what we cannot see;
- One world we can see with our physical eyes; the other world we can only see with our spiritual eyes;
- So just like there are “**Natural Seasons of Life**,” there are also “**Spiritual Seasons of Life.**”

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

11. God is the Creator of *both* the “*Natural Seasons of Life*” and the “*Spiritual Seasons of Life.*”

12. After the Flood, God made this promise:

“As long as the earth endures, *seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night* will never cease” (Gen. 8:22).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

Here we see several sets of opposites in the natural realm:

- *Seedtime* and *harvest*;
- *Cold* and *heat*;
- *Summer* and *winter*;
- *Night* and *day*:

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

13. Likewise the Psalmist wrote:

- “It was You who set all the boundaries of the earth; You made both *summer* and *winter*” (Ps. 74:17).
- The *day* is Yours, and Yours also the *night*; you established the sun and moon. It was you who set all of the boundaries of the earth; You made both *summer* and *winter*” (Ps. 74:16-17).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- “The *moon marks off the seasons*, and the sun knows when to go down” (Ps. 104:19).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

14. The writer of Ecclesiastes said:

“There is a time for everything, and a *season* for every activity under heaven” (Ecc. 3:1).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

15. The Prophet Isaiah used an agricultural picture to describe God's People – a people who were to be *“planted in the Promised Land”* to bear fruit in *season* for His glory:

*“They will be called...a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor”* (Isa. 61:3).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

16. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul used the same agricultural picture when he wrote; “You are *God’s field*” ... (*1 Cor. 3:9*)

- The purpose for “God’s field” is to produce regular fruit each season for His glory – and the good of others.
- The fruit that is to be produced is the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 5:5) – which is *love* – that is both the *nature of God* (1 Jn. 4:8) and the *character of Christ* (Jn. 13:1; 34).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

17. The ***“7 Feasts of Judaism”*** are all based around agriculture – and agriculture is based around *seasons of the year.*

“Celebrate the *Feast of Harvest* with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the *Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles)* at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field. *Three times a year* all your males shall appear before the Lord God” (Ex. 23:14-17).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- **SPRING**: *Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits*: come together at the *beginning* of the agricultural year;
- **SUMMER**: *Pentecost* comes in the *middle* of the agricultural year;
- **AUTUMN**: *Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles or Ingathering* come together at the *end* of the agricultural year.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- 18. Each Season of Life has its own uniqueness.**
- In the *spring* the animals mate and bear their young. Seeds germinate and grow. Spring is the time that the sap flows, leaves grow and flowers bloom.
  - As the Bible says: “All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk then the head then the full kernel in the head” (Mk. 4:28).
  - During *summer*, the fruit and vegetables mature for food and reproduction.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- In the *fall*, the full harvest comes in if there have been adequate “former and latter rains.”
- In many parts of the world, *winter* then sets in – blanketing vast areas of the earth in snow and ice. This freezing weather causing the earth to have several months of needed *rest* and *repose* – and gives many animals times of decreased activity or hibernation

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

19. These seasons are inter-connected. One flows naturally into the other.
20. Therefore, each season directly influences and impacts the next season. *They cannot be separated from each other.*
21. What happens in one season dramatically affects what happens in the following season.

# SEASONS OF LIFE

22. PRINCIPLE: “*You always reap in one season what was sown in the previous season.*”

“Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. *A man reaps what he sows*” (Gal. 6:7).

23. PRINCIPLE: “***WHAT*** you are now – as well as ***WHERE*** you are now is the direct result of past sowings in the Seasons of your Life – by you or by others.”

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

24. Therefore, what is true in the *natural realm* is equally true in the *spiritual realm* – as well as in all other spheres of life.
25. Just as nature goes through predictable cycles, so does every other area of life.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

26. As human beings, we go through cycles of growth from *conception* → *birth* → *infancy* → *childhood* → *adolescence* → *young adulthood* → *middle age* → *old age* → *death*.



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

27. In these *seasons of life*, we each experience:

- *Physical change*
- *Mental change*
- *Emotional change*
- *Spiritual change*

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

28. If we develop in a healthy manner during our various chronological seasons of life, we will go from *dependency* → *independence* → *inter-dependence*.
29. In addition to our own individual *Seasons of Life*, the world around us is doing the same – in every sphere.
- Marriage goes through different seasons.
  - Family life goes through distinct seasons.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

30. Tragically, *love does not always prosper and grow from season to season.*
31. Because of the absence of love, our marital and familial seasons can be scarred by *alienation, estrangement, separation and divorce.*

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

32. As a result of these negative relational seeds that are sown in the children, a harvest of *pain, anger, insecurity, inferiority, regret* and *self-recrimination* will grow for the rest of the seasons of their lives.

33. Therefore, ***what we sow in our seasons of Life always impact the lives of others*** – especially those closest to us.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

35. Our every season radically impacts other – for good or for evil!

36. In the same way that *individuals* go through seasons...

- *Nations* also go through seasons.
- *Cultures* go through seasons.
- *Governments* go through seasons.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- *Organizations* go through seasons.
- *Businesses* go through seasons.
- *Churches* go through seasons.
- *Ministries* go through seasons.
- *Leaders* go through seasons.
- *Pastors* go through seasons.
- *Missionaries* go through seasons.
- *Christian workers* go through seasons.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

37. And each one goes through an inescapable cycle of **conception** → **birth** → **life** → **growth** → **decline** → **decay** → **death**.

Principle:

“There are absolute *‘laws of sowing and reaping’* that determine the *quantity* and *quality* of the seasons of life.”

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

38. Therefore, life is never static. *Time never stands still*. It relentlessly marches forward – and it always does so through predictable seasons.
39. But while some individuals, marriages, ministries and nations enjoy *many* seasons of fruitful growth -- others experience only a few. They are short-lived.
40. BIG QUESTION: “*What makes the difference?*”



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

41. Once Again, the Bible teaches that there are absolute *“Laws of sowing and reaping.”*
42. These spiritual and physical laws determine both the **quantity** and **quality** of the Seasons of Life. They do not have to be discovered by “trial and error.”
43. They *are clearly revealed to us in God’s Word* -- and available for everyone to live by through **faith** and **obedience**.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

44. So every sphere of life goes through seasons. Nothing is immune from this *cycle of change* – especially the Christian life!
45. And because God is a God of reason, there is a ***“reason for every season.”*** No season is capricious, meaningless, mindless or purposeless.
46. Since there is Intelligent Design behind our universe and individual lives, ***there are wise providential purposes for every season of life.***

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

Principle:

**“There is a *reason for every season...*  
*a providential purpose for every*  
*season of life.*”**

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

47. However, while we have come to expect the rhythm of the *natural seasons*, most of us have not learned to adjust to the *spiritual seasons of life*.

48. I hope that this study will help you know the season of life you are currently in so that you can maximize it for *your growth... other's good...and for God's glory!*

49. And most importantly that your next season will be the most *fruitful* and *fulfilling* one of your life to date.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

50. I am now in my “6<sup>th</sup> Decade of Life” – which means I have gone through “60 Seasons of Life.”
51. By God’s grace, all have been learning, growing and fruitful seasons.
52. Not because I have been a “perfect spiritual farmer!”
53. But like young Timothy, I too “...from infancy have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you *wise* for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (II Tim. 3:15).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- I know that all of these blessings have come from God's sovereign, providential hand.
- I had nothing to do with the family I was born into or the parents who raised me. I had nothing to do with my temperament, emotional DNA, natural talents or gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- It has all been God's "amazing grace" from start to finish!

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- However, there is one thing I do know for certain – which my parents taught me from my childhood: *“To whom much is given, much is required”* (Luke 12:48).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

**54. That may not be what you experienced growing up. Your season of childhood may have been scarred by many broken relationships.**

- **Your parents, relatives or peers may have sowed their own “sick seeds” into your life while you were young.**
- **Your early years may be emotionally pock-marked by *family violence, divorce, alcoholism, drug abuse, verbal vilification, sexual exploitation* – or just *parental neglect*.**



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- Your teenage years may have been spent “*sowing wild oats*” that you are still reaping the results of.
- As the Bible says, you may have “... sowed the wind” and are now “reaping the whirlwind” (Hos. 8:7).
- And the result is a lot of ***wasted seasons of life... painful experiences... damaged emotions... barren years... and negative harvests.***

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

54. But my friend, regardless of the season of life you are currently in -- God's grace can intervene if you will give Him complete control.
- His love can "...cover a multitude of sins" (1 Pet. 4:8).
  - His Word assures us that "...where sin abounds, grace much more abounds" (Rom. 5:20).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- God has always been in the business of making “...new creations in Christ Jesus.”
- He alone can make “...old things pass away” and bid “...everything become new” (II Cor. 5:17).
- If you will give Him *this Season* of your Life – starting right **NOW** – the next season of your life can be radically different!

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- At this very moment you can begin to sow *positive seeds* that will result in a future harvest of *pleasure* rather than *pain*.
- And it will ultimately result in an *eternal season* of joy and pleasure “...at His right hand forever more” (Ps. 16:11)!

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

56. But in order to *change this present season of our lives*, we must begin by *changing our minds*.

57. A *change of season* always begins with a *change of mind*.

58. This “change of mind” is what the Bible calls *repentance*.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- If it is authentic repentance, there will be a “*change of mind*” that will result in a “*change of direction*” and a “*change of behavior.*”
- It will result in a “*new direction*” for our lives!
- While we cannot change or erase what happened to us in the earlier seasons of our lives – *we can change our response to them.*

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- We can accept full **ownership** in our **response** and **reaction** to what happened to us in the former seasons of our life.
- By an **act of our will** we can stop dwelling on these past events.
- We can stop “*obsessing on them*” in our minds.
- We can decide to quit **rehearsing**... **nursing**...and **cursing** them!

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- We can choose to “pull up” that deep-seated “root of bitterness” that we have allowed to deeply penetrate our spirit (Heb. 12:15).
- And we must begin by accepting God’s *unconditional forgiveness*;
- Then we must extend that same *unconditional forgiveness* to everyone who hurt us – whether intentionally or unintentionally.



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

59. So let's now look specifically at some of the characteristics of the various seasons of life.
60. As we do, let's especially look for those principles that will help us move from where we are right now – to **where God wants us to be.**
61. So let's eagerly receive those *positive seeds* from His storehouse that we can begin to sow now for a future harvest of "... righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17).



***WINTER  
SEASON***

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 1. PASSIVITY (“Rest, repose & reflection”)

“...do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to *winter* there” (Titus 3:12; c.f. II Tim. 4:21);

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 2. PERSPECTIVE (Exchange “man’s perspective” for “God’s perspective)

“What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. *He has made everything beautiful in its time.* He has also set *eternity in the hearts of men*; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to *be happy and do good while they live.*

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

That everyone may eat and drink, and *find satisfaction in all his toil* – this is the *gift of God*. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that *men will revere Him*” (Ecc. 3:9-14).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 3. PRIORITIZING (“First things first”)

“Seek *first* His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 4. PRAGMATISM (“Be practical”)

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘These people say, “*The time has not yet come for the Lord’s house to be built.*” Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains in ruin?” Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

You have *planted much*, but have *harvested little*. You *eat*, but *never have enough*. You *drink*, but *never have your fill*. You put on *clothes* but are *not warm*. You *earn wages* only to put them in a *purse with holes in it*” (Haggai 1:2-6; c.f. Lev. 26:18ff; Deut. 28:38ff).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 5. PLANNING (Bible = “Book of Planning”)

“...do I make my plans in a *worldly manner...?*” (“Yes” & “No”; II Cor. 1:17).

A. God = “Long range planner”; “Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- B. “Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the Lord, who do their work in darkness and think, ‘Who sees us? Who will know?’...Woe to the Obstinate children...to those who *carry out plans that are not mine*...heaping sin upon sin...” (Isa. 29:15; 30:1).
- C. “May he give you the desire of your heart and *make all your plans succeed*” (Ps. 20:4).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- D. “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed” (Prov. 15:22; 20:18).
  
- E. “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and *your plans will succeed*” (Prov. 16:3).
  
- F. “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but *it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails*” (Prov. 19:22).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

G. “The *noble man* makes *noble plans*,  
and by *noble deeds* he stands” (Isa.  
32:8).

## PRINCIPLE:

“If you fail to plan – you plan to  
fail.”

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 6. PRAYER (Priority of Prayer)

A. (After Feeding of 5,000) “...He went up on a mountainside by Himself to *pray*. When evening came, He was there alone...” (Matthew 14:23).

B. “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where *He prayed*” (Mark 1:35).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- C. “Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should *always pray* and not give up...” (Luke 18:1).
- D. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Eph. 6:8; c.f. I Thess. 5:17).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 7. PREPARATION (Your *future* is no better than your *present preparation*)

“After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you...Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even *spend the winter with you*, so that you can *help me on my journey*, wherever I go” (I Cor. 16:6).



***SPRING  
SEASON***



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

1. PROVIDENCE (“God’s goodness” & your “good works”)
  - A. “This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, *though he does not know how*. All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come” (Mark 4:26-29).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- B. “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but *God made it grow*” (1 Cor. 3:6).
- C. PRINCIPLE: “**Your Success is based upon God’s Sovereignty.**”
- D. Therefore, *success is not yours alone and failure is not yours alone*. All we can do is faithfully “sow the seed” and leave the results in God’s hands.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

E. So we should never think “*too highly*” or “*too lowly*” of ourselves than we ought to think (Rom. 12:3). We must be “Biblically balanced” in how we think about ourselves and our work

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 2. PLOWING: (“Hard work”)

- A. “When a farmer *plows for planting*, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow...does he not plant...His God instructs him and teaches him the right way” (Isa. 28:24-25).
- B. “Break up your *unplowed ground* and do not sow among thorns” (Jer. 4:3).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- C. “Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and *break up your unplowed ground*; for it is time to seek the Lord, until He comes and showers righteousness on you. But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception” (Hosea 10:12-13).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

D. (Reluctant followers) “Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and *looks back* is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:57-62).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 3. PLANTING: (“Work of faith”)

A. “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity...a *time to plant...*” (Ecc. 3:1-2).

B. “Then He told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to *sow his seed...*’” (Matthew 13:3).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- C. “Whoever watches the wind will not *plant*; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap...*Sow your seed in the morning and at evening*, let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that or both will do equally well” (Ecc. 11:4, 6).
- D. (Eliphaz to Job) “As I have observed, those who *plow evil* and those who *sow trouble, reap it*” (Job 4:8).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- E. “They sow *the wind* and reap *the whirlwind*” (Hosea 8:7).
- F. “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. *A man reaps what he sows.* The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life” (Gal. 6:7-8).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

G. “Remember this: Whoever sows *sparingly* will also *reap sparingly*, and whoever sows *generously* will also *reap generously*” (II Cor. 9:6).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 4. PASSION (Plowing & planting requires passion!)

A. “Whatever your hand finds to do, *do it with all your might*, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning...” (Ecc. 9:10).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

B. “My lover spoke and said to me, ‘Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. See! *The winter is past*; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the *season of singing has come*, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come my darling; my beautiful one, come with me” (Song 2:10-13).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 5. POLLINATION (“Widen your horizons”)

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...Go up the land *flowing with milk and honey*’” (Ex. 33:1-3).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 6. PRECIPITATION (“Water & life”)

A. “If you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today – to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul – then I will send the rain on your land in its season, both *autumn and spring rains*, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied” (Deut. 11:13-15; c.f. Isa. 30:23).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- B. “He sends you abundant showers, both *autumn and spring rains*...the threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil” (Joel 2:23; Jer. 5:24).
- C. (For disobedience) “The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. The Lord will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed” (Deut. 28:23-24).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

D. “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without *watering the earth and making it flourish* so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater; so is *My word* that goes out from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purposes for which I sent it” (Isa. 55:10-11).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

E. “I planted the seed, Apollos *watered it...*” (1 Cor. 3:6).

Note: Other important verses about God’s use of rain: Lev. 26:3-4, 19; Job 38:37-38; Ps. 68:9, Jer. 3:3, 5:24-25; 14:14; Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23; Amos 4:7-8; Zech. 10:1).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 7. PREVENTION (“Eternal vigilance” & “Spiritual warfare”)

A. “Jesus told them...’The Kingdom of heaven of like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, *his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away*” (Matthew 13:24-28).

B. **PRINCIPLE**: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!”

C. “The eye of the farmer makes the cows fat -- or the farm fruitful.”



***SUMMER  
SEASON***

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 1. PRODUCTIVITY (“Leaders = producers and reproducers”)

“He who *gathers crops in summer* is a wise son, but he who *sleeps during harvest* is a disgraceful son” (Prov. 10:5).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 2. PERSPIRATION (“No sweat...no success”)

A. (God to Adam) “Cursed is the ground because of you; through *painful toil* you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you and you will eat the plants of the field. By the *sweat of your brow*, you will eat your food...” (Gen. 3:17-19).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- B. “As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way; in great *endurance*; in *troubles, hardships and distresses*; in *beatings, imprisonments and riots*; in *hard work, sleepless nights and hunger...*” (II Cor. 6:3-6).
- C. “...we have *labored and toiled* and have often *gone without sleep*; I have known *hunger and thirst* and have often *gone without food*; I have been *cold and naked...*” (II Cor. 11:27).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

3. PRUNING (The “good” is the enemy of the “best”)

A. “Why have they provoked Me to anger with their *images*, with their worthless *foreign idols*? The *harvest is past*, the *summer has ended*, and we are not saved?” (Jer. 8:19-20).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- B. “I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He *cuts off* every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, He *prunes* so that it will be even more fruitful” (John 15:1-2).
- C. (Unfruitful fig tree) “I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then *cut it down*” (Luke 13:8-9).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

4. PESTILENCE (“Pestilence” require “persistence”)
  - A. (Curses for disobedience) “...if you will not obey the Lord your God...cursed shall you be in the city...country...cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground...your herd and the young of your flock...The Lord will make the *pestilence* cling to you until He has consumed you from the land, where you are entering to possess it” (Deut. 28:15-21).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

B. “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty...You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the *pestilence* that stalks in darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday” (Ps. 91:1-6).

Note: God would often use “...famine, *pestilence*, and the sword,” as His three-fold judgment against His people for their disobedience: Lev. 26:25; Num. 14:12; II Sam. 24:15; I Chron. 21:14; II Chron. 7:13; 20:9; Ps. 78:50; Jer. 14:12; 21:6, 24:10, 29:17; Ezek. 5:12; Hab. 3:5; Mt. 24:7, Lk. 21:11, etc.

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

5. PROTECTION (“Ownership mentality” vs “Hireling Mentality”)
- A. “A man planted a vineyard. He *put a wall around it*, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower...” (Mark 12:1).
  - B. “The *hired hand* is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, *he abandons the sheep and runs away*. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. *The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep*” (Jn. 10:12-13)

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 6. PERSEVERANCE (“Pain” & “Perseverance”)

A. “...we know that *suffering produces perseverance*” (Rom. 5:3);

B. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops *perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything*” (Ja. 1:3);

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- C. “...among God’s churches we boast about your *perseverance* and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring” (II Thess. 1:4);
- D. “May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and *Christ’s perseverance*” (II Thess. 3:5);
- E. “Watch your life and doctrine closely. *Persevere* in them because if you do you will save both yourself and your hearers” (I Tim. 4:16);

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- F. “Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to *persevere* so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised” (Heb. 10:35-36);
- G. “Therefore...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us *run with perseverance the race marked out for us*” (Heb. 12:1);

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- H. “Blessed is the man who *perseveres under trial*, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him” (Ja. 1:12);
- I. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time *we will reap a harvest if we do not give up*. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Gal. 6:9-10);

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

J. “Therefore my dear brothers, be steadfast, *immovable*. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because *you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain*” (1 Cor. 15:58).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 7. PATIENCE (“Fruit of the Holy Spirit”)

A. “Love is *patient...*” (1 Cor. 13:4)

B. “Be patient, then brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You, too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near” (James 5:7-8).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

C. “We pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power...so that you may have *great endurance and patience*...to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light” (Col. 1:10-12);

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- D. “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage *with great patience* and careful instruction” (II Tim. 4:2);
  
- E. “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and *patience* inherit what has been promised” (Heb. 6:12);



***FALL  
SEASON***

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

1. PRODUCE (“Goal...Consummation of seasons”)

A. “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle for the *harvest is ripe*...multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the *valley of decision*” (Joel 3:12-14).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

B. (God's judgment on Israel) "Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins. You will eat but not be satisfied; your stomach will still be empty. You will store up but save nothing, because what you save I will give to the sword. *You will plant but not harvest; you will press olives but not use the oil yourselves, you will crush grapes but not drink the wine...I will give you over to ruin and your people to derision; you will bear the scorn of the nations*" (Mic. 6:13-16).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

C. (Separation of wheat & tares) “Let both grow together until the *harvest*. At that time I will tell the harvesters: ‘First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn...The *harvest* is the end of the age and the harvesters are angels” (Matt. 13:30, 39).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

D. “And I looked, and behold, a white cloud and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a *sharp sickle in His hand*. And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, ‘*Put in your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.*’ And He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth; and *the earth was reaped*” (Rev. 14:14-16).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

E. “Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will *enlarge the harvest* of your righteousness” (II Cor. 9:10).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

F. (Jesus said) “My food is to do the will of Him who send Me and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the *harvest?*’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! *They are ripe for harvest.* Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor” (Jn. 4:34-38).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

G. “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are *ripe for harvest*. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor” (John 4:34-38).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

H. (Parable of Ten Minas) “Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it in a cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and *reap what you did not sow*. His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and *reaping what I did not sow*? Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?...Take away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas’” (Luke 19:20-24).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

I. Today = **“Greatest days of spiritual harvest in human history!”**

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

2. PARTNERSHIP (“Partners” vs. Possessors”;  
“Mine” vs. “Ours”)

A. “The harvest is plentiful but the *workers are few*. Ask the Lord of the harvest...to send out *workers* into His harvest field” (Matt. 9:37-38).

B. “...they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their *partners* in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and *filled both boats* so full that they began to sink” (Luke 5:6-7).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

3. PROSPERITY (“Purpose of Prosperity”)
  - A. “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the *firstfruits* of all your crops; then *your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine*” (Prov. 3:9-10).
  - B. “Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an *abundance*. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him” (Matt. 13:12, 25:29).
  - C. PRINCIPLE OF GROWTH: “**Application = Abundance**”; “***Use it or Lose it.***”

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- D. “Other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a *hundred, sixty or thirty times* what was sown” (Matt. 13:8).
- E. “Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also *supply and increase* your store of seed and will *enlarge the harvest of your righteousness*. You will be made *rich* in every way SO THAT you can be *generous on every occasion...*” (II Cor. 9:10-11)



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 4. PARTAKING (“Personal benefit”)

A. “The *hardworking farmer* should be the *first to receive a share of the crops*” (II Tim. 2:6).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

B. “Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk?...it is written in the Law of Moses: ‘Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely He says this for us, doesn’t he? Yes, this was written for use, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, *they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.* If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?”...In the same way, *the Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their living from the Gospel*” (1 Cor. 9:7-14).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## 5. PROVISION (“Poor & needy”)

A. “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the *poor* and the *alien*. I am the Lord your God” (Lev. 19:9-10; 23:22).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

B. “When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; *it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow*, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive tree, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the *alien, for the orphan, and for the widow*. And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt” (Deut. 24:19-22; c.f. 14:29).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

C. “He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed” (Prov. 19:17).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

6. PRAISE (“Celebration of God’s faithfulness!”)

A. “There is a time to *dance*...” (Ecc. 3:4).

B. “When you...*reap the harvest*, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. He is to *wave the sheaf before the Lord* so it will be accepted on your behalf” (Lev. 23:10).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- C. “...they *rejoice* before you as people *rejoice at the harvest...*” (Isa. 9:3).
- D. “Those who sow in tears will *reap with songs of joy*. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with *songs of joy*, carrying sheaves with him” (Ps. 126:5)

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

7. PLEASURE (“Enjoy” or Endure?” ...  
“Pleasure principle”)
  - A. “So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to *enjoy his work...*” (Ecc. 3:22).
  - B. “So I commend the *enjoyment of life*, because there is nothing better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and *be glad*. Then *joy* will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun” (Ecc. 8:15).



# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

C. “Go, eat your food with *gladness*, and drink your wine with a *joyful heart*, for it is now that God favors what you do. Always be clothed in white and always anoint your head with oil. *Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love...*” (Ecc. 9:7-9).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

## CONCLUSIONS

1. PRINCIPLE: “You cannot *recall, replay or relive* any of the Seasons of Life.”
2. “So teach us to *number our days*, that we may gain a heart of *wisdom*” (Ps. 90:12).
3. “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, *making the most of every opportunity*, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15).

# THE SEASONS OF LIFE

4. “Preach the word, be prepared *in season* and *out of season*...” (II Tim. 4:2).
5. REMEMBER: “You are God’s field! Don’t let it lay fallow and unplanted. Don’t let Satan and the world plant its weeds in God’s Garden!”
6. God = Great Gardener! He wants to make you *fruitful* in every “Season of Life” for His glory and for the good of others.