

Seasons

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

All Christians go through seasons of:

- Adversity, hardship, discouragement spiritual dryness, and a sense of producing little.
- The ups and downs of life, disappointment, despair, joy, happiness and satisfaction.
- Times of fear, doubt and future uncertainty.
- Times when we feel that there is something wrong with us and we are being ‘punished’ for something that we are unaware of
- This causes us to ask what is really happening to me and why I am going through this?

However, these **changing** seasons are **directly** related to our **spiritual** life and progress in God. We face the full **spectrum** of the **diverse** nature and the divine purpose that each season brings.

THE FACTS

God established the seasons for all of His creation to live in and conduct their daily affairs.

***Genesis 1:14** (amp) And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs and tokens [of God's provident care], and [to mark] seasons, days, and years.*

God promised Noah after the flood that the seasons would **continue** as long the earth exists

***Genesis 8:22** (amp) While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

***Psalms 74:16-17** (net) You established the cycle of day and night; you put the moon and sun in place. **17:** You set up all the boundaries of the earth; you created the cycle of summer and winter.*

The seasons are different in **nature** (character, makeup) and different in **purpose** and **function**, **time** and **location**.

These seasons were created for the **benefit** of the earth and the **welfare** of all mankind

Each season was **perfectly** and **specifically designed** that way by God.

All of creation was **subject to** the respective and diverse conditions of each of those seasons

As believers, we are **subject to** those spiritual seasons that we experience.

Our heavenly Creator purposefully **crafted** and **designed** each of these spiritual seasons (experiences) to be an integral part of our spiritual development and maturity, so that we will become more the person He wants us to be.

Romans 8:29 (amp) For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

The conditions of each season **differ** according to what part of the world as some parts of the world there are only two major seasons, the wet (monsoon) and the dry.

The transitioning from one season into the next season.

- We need to be able to efficiently transition from the current season **into** the next season. Many believers often find it difficult to do this.

Adapting or adjusting to each season.

- Are we slow or reluctant to adapt to a new season in our lives?

- Are we still longing to be back in the previous season which we considered to be more beneficial than this new season?

God desires we seek to **extract** the best out of each season, maximising the benefits and to learn the lessons from each **respective** season.

How we can better **transition** and **adapt** to the **demands** of the changing nature and **purpose** of each season?

The better we understand the **nature** and the designed purpose of each season, the better positioned we are to make the necessary **adjustments** and to appropriate the maximum benefits from each season.

QUESTION

Have we truly recognized the true nature of those differing seasons and their true purpose in respect to our lives; especially in the light of who we are in Christ (God's purchased possession) and who God is (His sovereignty)?

SO THAT:

- We learn **how** not to lose spiritual ground in such changing environments or seasons.

- We learn that **change** does not need to be interruptive or destructive.
- We know how to **adjust** or **bend** without breaking.
- We have learned how to **extract** and **maximise** the **benefits** whilst understanding the purpose (reason) for each season.

Questions to ask of heavenly Father.

In context of who we are. i.e. being accepted by God, enjoying right standing with Him, reconciled and forgiven as His loved children.

1. What is the purpose in me experiencing this particular season?
2. What lessons can I learn from this event that I am currently experiencing?
3. What are the changes and corrections that God wants to make in me, and to my life?

There has to be a change in season before there can be the bearing of fruit.