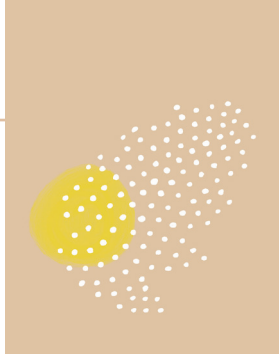


Seasons

#AgentsOfPeace



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” - Ecclesiastes 3:1

I have to admit I was excited to be asked and allocated the song “Seasons” for this devotional to accompany our newest Christmas album - “The Peace Project”.

My excitement firstly is because the song is stunning. Inspired by a poem, the lyrics capture the essence of life that is indeed played out in seasons. In the Genesis account where ‘hellish humanity’ forced the hand of a patient and longsuffering God to cleanse the earth of darkness - a new day had dawned full of promise. A day that was sealed with the arch of a rainbow and words from the very mouth of the Creator - “Never again will I curse the ground because of humanity, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Gen 8:21-22 NIV). That promise remains and although the earth is again filled with darkness, the promise only proves the longsuffering nature of a good God, whose desire is to see people come to Salvation and Truth.

And secondly because of the profound truth within the Ecclesiastes’ verse - “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”. The chapter goes on to say that God is able to make everything beautiful in its season.

I’ve been alive for six decades now, and I know from experience that God works within the framework of seasons, with the intent to grow us to maturity.

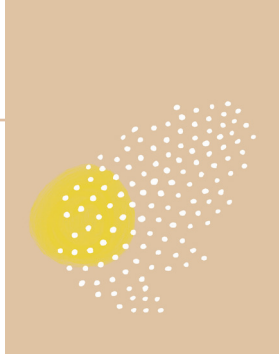
Lyrics such as, “Like a seed in the snow, I’ve been buried to grow” is true of life. There will be times in your journey when you feel the cold face of life, where you feel lost in seclusion or loneliness - yet it is within this season that you discover the deeper places of relationship with the Lord whose promise and presence is constant. If you also remain faithful and constant, you will emerge with depth only discovered in the winter season.

Lyrics such as, “Then if you’re not done working God, I’m not done waiting”, frame the loyal-promise that the song also gives expression to. Whether you fully comprehend it or not, God is loyally committed to His work within you. He is the master architect and He knows the exact timing and pace of what is perfect for you. So I encourage you to rest in His providence and become acquainted with the treasure to be found within “the wait”. Be diligent with your current here and now, and all your tomorrows will arrive as divinely purposed.

The idea of “The Peace Project” has many layers. This deeply challenged world needs peace, and those who are lost need to know there truly is a Saviour and Prince of Peace who died for them. But you also need to know His personal peace within your heart and soul - therefore my prayer is that God’s faithful and loyal Word will continue to frame the building and advancement of your life.

You are alive for such a time as this - you have much to contribute - and you will stand confidently in His Presence one day, as you allow what He has begun in you to grow to full stature, perfection and beauty.

By Bobbie Houston



I don't know about you, but I am remarkably quick to forget that the God that we serve is a God of process. Like a true artisan, all throughout scripture and sewn all thru creation, we see a God who humbly subjects himself to the boundaries and constraints of the processes that he actually created! And I think often in our humanity and our finite thinking we can look at what seemingly appears to be a "moment" and forget that there has been a God-ordained "process" that has led to it.

Who is this God who chooses the process of waiting to reveal Himself in the very midst of our breakneck striving?

Who is this God who uses seasons to acquaint our fleeting desires with his nature of patience?

Who is this God who rather than rightfully and instantaneously saving and reconciling humanity to Himself, planted a seed of salvation in the small village of Bethlehem — entrusting His very own to us?

Our hope is that this album, these songs, this devotional would serve as a poignant and powerful reminder that God is a God of process. In everything, in every season, He is always working, and working for good. His gospel of peace, and his kingdom of heaven are being forged on the earth. And though His work is often hidden in plain sight, we as Christians must hold to the faith that He is who He says He is, and He will do what He says He will.

Let us learn to wait and to believe in great expectation for our seasons to come, and let this Christmas season remind us that God is always working more than we think He is, and He's not finished yet.

By Chris Davenport

CONNECTION & ACTION

1. What has been buried in your life that you feel you're waiting on God to reveal?
2. How do you practically practice waiting on God in different seasons in life?
3. What are you currently striving in, that you really need God's peace in?

Use #AgentsOfPeace to join the conversation online!

PRAYER POINTS

- Government leaders
- Ongoing work of A21 in bringing an end to slavery in Thailand
- That your local church & home would be agents of peace that wage peace in their community

More #AgentsOfPeace resources available at hillsong.com/thepeaceproject