

Week 6: Priorities - *What season am I in?*

My Story

When I was a young pastor's wife in my early twenties, I wanted just one thing really. I wanted influence. I wanted people to want to hear from me. I wanted what I had to say to matter. What the Lord said back to me was this, "What would you say?" Of course, He was right. I was still so young. There was still so much He wanted to do in me, so much I needed to learn. That thing I wanted, or thought I wanted, would have to wait. It was not the right season.

When we are young, the tendency is to wish for the next stage or the next season. If we are single, we long for marriage. If we are married, we pine for children. If we have young children, we long for the days when they will grow up and be more self-sufficient because we are *Oh So Tired*. When they are older, we look forward to welcoming young spouses into the family... and then grandchildren! No matter what age or stage of life we find ourselves, I think the challenge for us as Christ following women is to be fulfilled *in that season* and to prepare well for the season to come.

I will never forget, about the same time I was longing for influence and working as a young nurse, I would openly wish for my shift to end. I'd sometimes stare at the clock- willing its hands to move faster. One day Jean, an older nurse, saw me doing this and said, "Honey, don't wish your life away!" I have never forgotten that advice. I have to remind myself of it often. While there are plenty of things I long for, I have to remain mindful of the fact that I have things to do now. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that *we are God's handiwork, created in Christ to do good things...* These things, God prepared in advance for us to do right now. We need to get busy! The tasks He has for us today will prepare us for the tasks He has for us in the next season of our lives.

And that influence I asked the Lord to give me all those years ago? At forty-seven, I have it now. But I also have the life experience and humility that is needed to go along with that. It blesses me to have the privilege of speaking into someone's life but I am also well aware of the great responsibility it carries. Everything in its proper season.

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens...Ecclesiastes 3:1

One thing is for certain. The next season of our lives rarely ends up looking like we thought it would. But if we draw close to our heavenly Father during our present season, we will be well prepared for both the joys and trials of the one to come. One of the best ways I can think of to prepare well for the next season is to draw close to a godly woman who is already there. Lean in, and let her show you the way. We weren't made to walk this life alone.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Questions to Ask Yourself

- What is my favorite part of my current season of life? What is God teaching me now?
- How am I preparing well for the next season? Where do I see God leading me in my faith, ministry or relationships?

Final Thoughts

Take some time this week to evaluate. It's worth the time! Are you "wishing your life away" or are you enjoying the current season? Do you have a mentor in your life, an older godly woman that is in a season further down that road who can help you? It is something to pray for and intentionally seek.

Also, let's begin to embrace this current season with all of its beauty and be "noticers of His goodness." It is all around you – right *now*!