

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

...a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; Ecclesiastes 3:4 (ESV)

As a child, I was an early riser. I would often wander down the stairs, through the dark living room into the light of the dining room where I would greet my dad sitting at the table. While he was eating his breakfast and the house was quiet, he would read his Bible and a daily devotion. That spiritual habit gave him direction and strength each day.

As I grew into adulthood, my early thirties ushered in a number of life-changing events that taught me very quickly that I was not invincible, and have little control - "Jesus, Take the Wheel" by Carrie Underwood comes to mind. Thankfully, my dad's spiritual habit had become my own. God was growing my faith and dependence on Him. A few years later, my family was stunned with news that my dad had cancer and would need surgery. The morning of his surgery, I read a devotion from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. I was looking for an answer, direction, and encouragement, but was perplexed at what God was telling me in Ecclesiastes. What did it mean that there is a time for everything? Would my dad be healed here on earth? I wrestled with what God was telling me about my dad's condition. Then, a Hebrew peace-blessing song "Shalom My Friend" came to mind. Shalom means "made good" or "fully restored". My dad would have peace and wholeness, and I needed to trust God with all the details, in His timing.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 prepares us with wise advice: "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven;" Life has shown me there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." God is in control; He's with us always; He's sovereign; and He's holding our hand every step of the way. His plan is always best for our lives.

Prayer: Father God, Maker of heaven and earth, you alone are worthy of our worship and praise. Help us, Holy Spirit, and guide us for "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven". Thank you, Jesus, for the example you set for us to love our Father, and depend on Him in all circumstances. Amen.

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