



Innovative Truth

Bringing Scripture to Life

November 2023

Dear Friend,

In Ecclesiastes, King Solomon presents 14 contrasting events regarding life. He resolves that God is in control of each moment when we surrender to Him, and that our Lord has a purpose for everything we experience. In our lives we experience joy and sorrow, birth and death, peace and conflict. This final quarter of 2023 we have experienced much sadness in the death of our friend and the wars raging across the world. The conflicts continue to heat up here in our own country as well. Today we want to share how we respond to the Innovative Truth small group participants when asked to explain how we face simple day to day tasks, and any attempt to achieve goals, while the world is filled with so much pain. The following is a summary of what we share with believers who are grappling with such questions:

On Earth, perfect peace is only found in a close relationship with our Heavenly Father.

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you,” declares Isaiah 26:3. A time for peace is the opportunity and blessing of every believer in all circumstances (Romans 5:1–5; John 16:33; Philippians 4:11–13). Life in the Holy Spirit offers righteousness, joy, and peace (Romans 14:17–19; Galatians 5:22). A time for peace is the reward of those who love and obey God’s Word. Scripture says, “those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die” (Isaiah 57:2).

Tom’s Sunday morning Men’s group recently studied Revelation. As promised in Revelation 21:1–4; 22:3–5, a future “time of peace” is foretold about the New Jerusalem when God himself will make His home among His people.

“In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will

play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD”
Isaiah 11:6–9.

Yes, sometimes it may feel ridiculous to be reaching for personal goals while war and strife are around every corner. Yet, there is a balance between passionately striving to achieve goals and surrendering to God. It can feel like I’ve failed when my plans aren’t working out. But what if I try a new perspective? What if I needed to have my goals fail in order to get me to this point? What if my failure was actually a success for God’s plan to make itself known to me? What would life be like if we consciously see our goals, and their failures, as enhancements for God’s guidance and our relationship with Him? Consider a way of having objectives that put the so called “prize” not on the accomplishment of the goal, but instead on the deepening of my relationship with God and the guidance I receive from Him. Will I face situations that are extremely difficult? Absolutely! This is the sweet spot where we learn to dance in the storm.

When I refocus my intentions and align my goals with moving closer to God, then the soil in which I plant my seeds of desire will have the exact nutrients they need to grow and become what they are meant to be according to God’s will. The fear of failure is removed and I’m willing to accept the lessons and blessings God is waiting to pour into me. God has called me to faithfulness, not to personal success. How might your desires look different if the ultimate goal is to move closer to Christ through the journey regardless of the world’s chaos?

Thank you for your faithful generosity and sacrifice to help us change the world one life, couple and family at a time.

With all our love,



A time for Everything

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8