

## Now is the Time, Now is the Season!

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven.*

We can look around us and see the signs that fall is upon us. The leaves are changing color, the weather is beginning to cool and everyone is back in school. One of the things I love about this time of the year, is this is when things are made fruitful. The Harvest Season!

I realize that the past five months for Grace Street have been a time of sadness, transition and change as you are stepping from one season into another. I want to encourage you that we are stepping into a season of celebration, joy and harvest. Jeremiah 31:13, *“Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.”*

I am not what you call someone with a “green thumb” but I do understand the growing process. Soil has to be prepared, seeds have to be planted, seeds must be watered and in due season the fruit will appear. Pastor Russ & Ana did an awesome job in planting and pastoring Grace Street. They understood this process and prepared the soil of people’s hearts, planted seeds of God’s Word, watered them through the power of the Holy Spirit and watched God bring the increase. They were faithful in their season and now it is time for a new one. But as one season comes to a close, there is always another season ready to begin.

Paul reminds us who the Lord of the Harvest is, in 1 Corinthians 3:7-8, *“The ones who do the planting or watering aren’t important, but God is important because he is the one who makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work as a team with the same purpose. Yet they will be rewarded individually, according to their own hard work.”* Without God the seed will not grow, we must always remember that. What makes us fruitful in things of the Spirit is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Jesus puts it like this in John 15:4-8, *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”* Fruit is a natural by-product of the process, if all the steps are

taken properly, no one is surprised by the outcome, fruit.

We are so excited about this new season that God has us in as He moves us to serve at Grace Street and all the relational communities attached to it. I believe that Isaiah 43:17-18 shows us what God is up to, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”*

Grace Street has had an awesome season in these first nine years but I am telling you that we have not seen anything yet. The Spirit of God is moving and He is taking us all down some uncharted territory. We are called to be “Grounded in His Word and Empowered by His Spirit.” So put on your seat belt and get ready for a ride, because Ephesians 3:20 promises, *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”*

Thank you for the way in which you have embraced us and let’s take hold of the things God has for us together.

In Him,

*Pastor Chris, Ishtar & Royce*



*When are Ishtar and Baby Royce joining us?*

*The big move happens the beginning of Oct. The whole Gleason family will be with us Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>*