

GOD HAS PREPARED ME TO THRIVE IN THIS

We can trust God to cause us to thrive in whatever season of life we are experiencing.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The book of 2 Corinthians 3 tells us that "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (v. 17).
- ❖ God is powerful. He is supernatural, transformational, and wherever God is cannot be an ordinary space.
- ❖ It is for that reason that whatever we are going through, or whatever season of life we are experiencing, that God has prepared a way for us to thrive in it. And with that being true, God has prepared each of us to be more than a survivor. He has prepared us to *thrive*.
- ❖ "In all these things," says Romans 8:37, "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."
- ❖ The fact that God has prepared us to thrive is a personal revelation that one must acknowledge for themselves.
- ❖ The Merriam-Webster Dictionary says a season is "a time characterized by a particular circumstance or feature, or a period of the year characterized by or associated with a particular activity or phenomenon."
- ❖ And the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes gives a great summary of the type of seasons we can experience in life (see Ecc. 3:1-8).
- ❖ These are seasons that we will likely experience at some point in our lives, but it is important for us to recognize that God has prepared us to thrive during these times.
- ❖ So, what is the "season" God has prepared *me* for?
- ❖ Nobody can predict what the next "season" will be, but most of us will recognize it when we experience it.
- ❖ It may be:
 - a time of beginnings: new relationships, new position, new opportunity;
 - a time of endings: the end of relationships, the end of position, a closed door;
 - something that causes us to rejoice and be happy;
 - something that caused us to cry and be sad;
 - something that causes us to be very angry or frustrated or annoyed;
 - or something that causes us to have hope and be optimistic.
- ❖ These are just some examples to awaken our consciousness, to recognize that whatever we are going through or experiencing, God has prepared us to thrive in this that particular season.
- ❖ Now, when we hear the word "thrive," we automatically think about material things like money, clothes, houses, cars, opportunities, prestige, luxury, etc.
- ❖ But equating thriving to achieving material growth is mainly because of the influence of our North American culture.
- ❖ Our culture defines thriving by how rich one may be, by whatever prestigious position one may have, by how educated one may be, or by the designer label one may have sewn on their clothes or their bag.

KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 17:8-16 (NLT)

- ❖ But true thriving is putting our trust in Jesus and allowing His nature to shine through us in whatever season we find ourselves in. Thriving is how we allow the God in us to shine through!
- ❖ And we do this by having a godly character, by living with integrity, and by continuing to treat people with the type of love, respect and dignity that Jesus would expect from any of His disciples.
- ❖ In 1 Kings 17, a widow was in very bad shape: she was about to use the last of her resources and then, in her mind, she and her son were eventually going to die of starvation.
- ❖ But what she didn't know was that God had prepared her to thrive in her situation.
- ❖ Just because we don't see that God has prepared us to thrive doesn't mean that we are not prepared.
- ❖ In the midst of this widow's season, she heard the Word of God spoken to her through the prophet, and it activated that which God had already prepared in her. She obeyed the Word spoken to her and God materially provided for her, her son and the prophet. She thrived!
- ❖ And because she was thriving, she knew exactly what to do when her son died—reach out to God for help!
- ❖ Thriving is putting our trust in Jesus and allowing His nature to shine through us in whatever season we find ourselves.
- ❖ Thriving is how we allow the God in us to shine through!
- ❖ So, whatever season of life we are currently experiencing, let us trust God, who will make it possible to not only survive, but to thrive.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. In the various seasons mentioned, how many have you personally encountered? If possible, share one or two of those instances.
2. Did you feel that you were adequately prepared beforehand? What helped you through that season?
3. Give God thanks for whatever season you're in.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, in whatever season I'm going through, help me to wait on You because through You, I will thrive. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 🌱 (New idea) 🗣️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: Many stores had "black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" deals. Was this something you prepared for and did you buy anything?