



The Seasons of Life

Balancing life's priorities

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The beautiful colours of autumn in my Melbourne garden attuned my senses to the new season that is taking over what became a parched summer garden. As with nature, we too experience changing seasons in our work, lifestyle and relationships such as the birth of a child or new work tasks.

Seasons in business can be described as those where our values and vision cause tasks and priorities to change; some are minor, others require major adjustments. In these life seasons, certain roles take priority, such as motherhood and its associated activities. New roles influence our values and dominate the season, which can last a short while or a number of years.

Be aware of your current season

For instance, Maria's current core roles are to work as a team leader and wife to Mike. Her future vision is to create a loving Christian home, achieve part time self-employment as a consultant and an expanded relationship role as wife and mother.

Therefore, Maria is using her current life season to her expand work experiences and reputation. As a couple they have invested their energies in a Bible Study group and a home renovation. Maria is content to describe her current season as one of investment in business, church and marriage in preparation for future change.

By identifying your current life season and its priority roles, you provide a foundation to experience a greater peace in decision-making. Take some time now to identify your current core roles:

- Personal _____
- Spiritual _____
- Professional _____

Different seasons will require rebalancing our three resources of time, money and talent to meet that season's priorities. Consider these three challenging concepts:

- Time – everyone has the same 24/7. It's how we choose to invest it which makes the difference, for example in front of the television or studying God's Word
- Money – money is a commitment of energy, a conversion of our time into dollars. We all need money, however the question for consideration is how much is enough for your needs in a particular life season?
- Talents – our strengths contribute value to family, work and church, which can be effectively transferred to other life areas. Are there other areas where we can also contribute our talents (such as reading at school)?

Preparing for change

Certain seasons will also bring 'imbalance', for example a new role at work or as a parent will impact other life areas and be times of challenge and growth.

When we are in one season, nature is preparing for the next. We too need to prepare through integrated life planning that invests into the next season of our lives.

Consider your future life season. What are its dominant roles, resource needs and time, money or talent investment requirements?

- Personal _____
- Spiritual _____
- Professional _____

Being aware enables preparation and proactive planning, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecc3:1) CW