



The Spirit Led Him

Handout June 2, 2023

Welcome back and here we go!

It's a new season, both in terms of climate and in terms of growth. As a body we continue to grow in ways that make us more cohesive and aware. And, for me, it's not only awareness of my own needs, but of the needs of those around me!

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

What season are you in?

1) We all go through _____ & _____.

Every day brings new opportunities to either be victorious or to fall into the temptations of our human/sin nature --- to be unkind, unforgiving, critical, judgmental, angry, lustful, fearful.

So, I ask you today: What season are you in and how did you get there?

2) God _____ trials!

Matthew 4:1-10

It always amazes me that the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. It seems counterproductive --- for me at least --- to be led to where I would be tempted. Yet, JESUS is our EXAMPLE --- in ALL things.

So, I ask again: What season are you in? Maybe you are in a season of love, care, compassion, hope and peace. If so, *enjoy it!*

3) Life can feel like a _____.

In the ups and downs of life, we are always looking for reasons, especially in the down sections of the coaster. In the up sections, we say "God is good", "I am blessed", "I have God's peace", "I am so thankful".

If you are in a down section right now, what are you saying to yourself and to others?

James 1:13-14 'Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.'

4) God does not _____ us!

It is important to know that while God may allow us to be tempted, He does not tempt us. It is our own *sin nature*; yet, we may be tempted to malign God because He has allowed it.

We've just completed a long series on the Doctrine of Sin (in our Bible Study). It is scary to truly understand sin. As we learn the true characteristics of sin, it is easy to see where we are failing. Yet, it is imperative that we learn and understand.

The prophet Hosea said **'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. ...' Hosea 4:6a**

For me --- always --- the question is:

5) God, what are you trying to _____ me in this _____?

"Keeping my mind stayed on Jesus" --- woke me up this morning!

Galatians 5:12-18

Here are two mental attitudes --- two seasons.

- a. *"Loving my neighbor"*
- b. *"Biting and devouring"*

The conclusion is what I love: *"If you are led by the Spirit..."*

Imagine standing before the vast eminence of God Almighty ----- and complaining.

Job - the great patriarch --- what a season he went through.

Where has God led you? Are you tempted to judge others? Have you forgotten your own need?

Romans 2:1-4

Don't forget God's grace in your life. Even in your trials, God loves you and is watching over you.

It's summer --- a new season --- characterized by warmth. *Let love be your guiding principle.*

- Ask God: what are you trying to teach me?
- Ask yourself: Did the Spirit lead me here or did I get here all by myself?
- Either way, God has allowed it and the solution is the same!

Humble yourself. **1 Peter 5:5-11**

Let this be the season God perfects, establishes, and strengthens you. A believer using *faith-rest* can relax and even enjoy the battle.

☆ **Tuesday Bible Study: Roy is teaching on the Gospel - 6 PM.**

☆ **No Discipleship Class on Monday.**

☆ **No 1 PM or 3:30 PM Bible study on Tuesday.**

☆ **In two weeks, we start a new series on the *Gospel of John*.**