

The 4 Seasons Of Faith

Following Christ Through The Seasons Of Life

Sermon Overview

The Seasons Of Life
(God's Purposes & Our Responsibilities)

Jesus Christ's "Fall"
(Gospel Of Luke)

Following In Jesus' Steps

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The Seasons Of Life

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a 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..."

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

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The Seasons Of Life

"...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)

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The Seasons Of Life

God's Purposes & Our Responsibility

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
God's Time To Generate	God's Time To Bless	God's Time To Withhold	God's Time To Refine
Our Time To Grow	Our Time To Rejoice	Our Time To Trust	Our Time To Persevere

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Defining "Fall"

A "Fall" is one of those worrisome times in life where things seem to be falling apart...and the future does not look good.

Fall isn't the winter...it's the anticipation of it.

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Defining "Fall"

The Opportunities & Pitfalls Of Fall

OPPORTUNITIES	PITFALLS
Learn Trust Accept God's Will Thrive In Trials Embrace Prayer Appreciate Blessings	Lose Trust In God Forge Our Own Path Be Paralyzed Seek Our Own Counsel Live Fearfully




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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

Jesus' Anticipation Of Jerusalem

Luke 18:31-34 – Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."




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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

The Triumphal Entry

Luke 19:37-42 – When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees...




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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

The Triumphal Entry

...in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace-- but now it is hidden from your eyes."




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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

The Last Supper

Luke 22:14-23 – When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you..."




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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

The Last Supper

...For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood..."



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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

The Last Supper

...which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.



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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

The Garden Of Gethsemane

Luke 22:39-44 – Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him... He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done"...and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.



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Jesus Christ's "Fall"

How Did Jesus Handle The "Fall"?

He Didn't Like It...But He Didn't Worry Instead Of Being Paralyzed...He Continued To Live
He Could Have Avoided It...But He Accepted It
He Could Have Maneuvered...Instead He Just Prayed
He Returned Good For Evil



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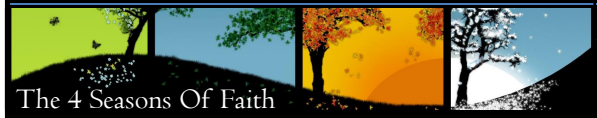
Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle Your "Fall"?

You Don't Have To Like It...But Don't Worry

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

(Matthew 6:27-34)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle Your "Fall"?

Don't Be Paralyzed...Continue To Live!

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(Hebrews 12:1-3)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle Your "Fall"?

Don't Avoid The Falls...Accept Them

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth...Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:3-10)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle Your "Fall"?

Don't Maneuver...Just Pray

In his heart man plan's his course, but the LORD determines his steps.
(Proverbs 16:9)

I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.
(Jeremiah 10:23)




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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle Your "Fall"?

Return Good For Evil

I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...Do to others as you would have them do to you.
(Luke 6:27-31)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle Your "Fall"?

You Don't Have To Like It... But Don't Worry
Don't Be Paralyzed...Continue To Live!
Don't Avoid The Falls...Accept Them
Don't Maneuver...Just Pray
Return Good For Evil



The 4 Seasons Of Faith

"Fall" Conclusions

What "Falls" Are You In Today?

Your Faith?	Your Education?
Your Finances?	Your "Toys"?
Your Marriage?	Your Peace?
Your Health?	Your Reconciliation?
Your Job?	Your Hope?
Your Ministry?	Your Freedom?



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"Fall" Conclusions

God's Purpose & Our Responsibility

God leads us into difficult times and tough situations, and even withholds His blessing, to remind us to always depend upon Him!

Even When God Withholds...He Always Provides!
Don't Worry! Just Trust Him!




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For Reflection

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me... Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Psalm 23:1-6



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