

# Devotional #3

TRUE REST IN THE GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES

**Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

Everywhere I turn, fear of the unknown is bursting at the seams. Our haven, which was once propped up by lofty idols of health and wealth have toppled overnight like dominoes. *Who knew that even first-world armour was paper thin?* I have pinched myself many times, hoping to wake to the norms of yesterday, only to find myself firmly planted in a world of difference.

In isolation, my heart has felt like a heavy box of broken trinkets longing to be restored to its former glory. I miss the old normal—seeing faces without masks, singing freely with my church family and hugging loved ones on the other side of closed borders. I miss the old me—bold and careless, free and weightless, I planned on changing the world over breakfast.

*There is a time for everything*, but now more than ever, my weary heart is grasping for timelessness. I long to restore what was, and to know what is to come. I feel the urgency of smoothing out the lines on my grandmother's face and to relive the days when my father was still big enough to be my hero. I want to retell the stories of faded film and to nap in fields of evergreen.

While wisdom urges me to plan for the new normal, nostalgia keeps me chained in the past. My memories console me with old affections—and yet they haunt me with today's absence. In a transient world, all is finite. People come and go. Churches open and close. Kingdoms rise and fall. Like wildflowers, all is destined to bloom and wither. *There is a time for everything*.

I can't decide whether I love or hate my capacity to remember, but what I do know is that nostalgia was imprinted on my heart so that I would search far and wide for eternity—for a hope that endures forever. What I discovered, is that the One who placed eternity in the human heart has come to fulfil that very desire. In Christ, I have discovered a glory that will never diminish, a strength unchallenged by death, and a love that will never change. I can let go of my yesterday's built on sand when I cling to Jesus—the Rock of Ages—the Word who has existed from the very beginning (John 1:1).

In Christ, I have learned to not romanticise the past, because in Him, my future is secure. I can face the pain of a 'new normal', because I trust that yesterday was willed, tomorrow has been planned, and eternity will be glorious. Jesus has rescued me into a heaven without tears, a future without goodbyes and a day when wistful longing will be no more. *There is a time for everything*—but eternity will be evergreen.





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## Verses for Meditation

- Hebrews 13:8
- Revelation 1:8
- Revelation 21:3-5

## Reflection Questions

- How does knowing an 'eternal' God shape your perspective of time and seasons of change?
- What anxieties do you have for the 'new normal'?
- How does the hope of eternity bring comfort to present anxieties?

## Prayer

Praise God that in these uncertain times, we can put our faith in an eternal God who never changes, and who is always faithful to his promises. Confess any idols that you have depended on for safety and security. Ask God to help you trust in his timing for your life and that you can rest in his Fatherly care in all seasons of life. Ask God to help you see present challenges with an eternal perspective.

