
Subject: What's in a year?

Dear Saints

Most of us are back at work by now - that's if you've had any time for leisure at all during December! We would like to wish you a prosperous 2009 - a year during which you will break through to new levels of relationship with Jesus, and contribute more than ever in building His Kingdom as a co-worker of Him!

For the past ten years or so, I've made a habit of going before the Father during the December holidays and submitting each new year to Him. I ask Him to give me an indication of what the new year holds, and how I should position myself for whatever is on His program.

In the past He has given me clear, and sometimes shocking instructions! He has never spoken to me about national or world affairs directly. He never told me what was coming, but he told me clearly what I was to do in order to be ready for whatever would be thrown at me.

One year He said: "You'll reap from places where nobody has ever harvested anything before." I rejoiced! And so it happened.

Another year He said: "You are going to be sifted." I trembled! And so it happened.

For this year He said: "Forget what is behind and strain yourself towards what is ahead." I was puzzled. And so it will happen!

Summer, fall, winter and spring alternate about every 3 months. Earthly seasons come and go. When the previous one is over, we don't sit in sackcloth and ashes, lamenting about what has left us.

When summer with its heat and dryness (for Cape Town!) passes and the clear skies and beautiful evenings of autumn approach, we capetonians say, "Phew, what a relief!"

And when winter gets Cape Town in its stranglehold of rain and icy winds, we take out our winter sheets and blankets, snuggle before the fireplace and drink hot chocolate.

We never say: "What has happened to my dear summer?" or "Why should I stop sipping Milo?"

Mostly, God's seasons last longer than 3 months.

What have you been doing during your past season? Which tasks did you have to perform in God's Kingdom? Have you ever given it a thought?

Most probably your season won't change to the next if you still have outstanding orders. Your obedience is the key to changing your season.

Some of us are so in love with our current season that we don't want to change. Which means you will never grow any further.

Some of us just hate our current season. But we have never completed our God-given tasks.

What's your attitude towards your job?

Do you do it for a living, or for God? Do you earn a salary or make money for yourself, or to enable you to honour God?

Teachers honour God by rearing godly children.

Lawyers honour God by allowing His justice to prevail.

Waiters honour God by serving customers with a godly smile.

Fathers honour God by loving their wives and children.

Mothers honour God by submitting to their husbands and loving them and their children.

Children honour God by honouring their parents.

My prayer for you for this year is that you'll be able to finish your current season successfully in His Kingdom.

And that you will forget it.

And that you will strain yourself towards whatever lies ahead.

What an opportunity! What grace!

While the world's economy is taking a nosedive, I pray that you will prosper in faith, obedience, in knowledge of God and His order, in relationships with Godly people - and as these flourish, that you will also prosper financially.

Have a bumper 2009!

Eben Swart