

## Happy October ladies!

The air is turning cold, the leaves are just beginning to change hues, and all signs point to the close of summer and the beginning of fall! For some of you, me pointing that out fills your sweater wearing, pumpkin-spice-latte-sipping hearts with delight. For others, it's just a sad reminder that these are the last days of soaking up the sun on the lake and looser schedules.

Something I've struggled to learn over the years is that oftentimes, to begin something new it also means you must end something old. This can either be a welcome goodbye or one that hurts. I don't know where you are right now, or what season your life is in, but this we have in common: the One who holds all of those seasons. He is our constant and never changes. "The same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He writes the changes and the things that remain all under the constancy of His character.

Sometimes we wish we could flip the page and end the chapter ourselves, and sometimes we feel like we've been shoved through a door only to have it locked behind us. Often in a season where we can feel the change coming but it hasn't happened quite yet, we either want to spur it on or make it stop. Are you clinging to summer? Yearning for fall? What about seasons that effect our lives more significantly than the clothes we wear and the beverages we sip?

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: 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, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, 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.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." — Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

It's so true that we cannot even fathom all that God is doing in the ebb and flow of what He brings into our lives and what He takes away. We may want to control when we live and die, when we heal, when we build, when we laugh or weep. Control when we embrace or when we are embraced, when we speak and when we are silent to be sure — but this man Solomon, gifted with wisdom from God reminds us of this: "everything is beautiful in its time". We have eternity in our hearts. This is both a call to patience and a call to anticipation. Can we be content in the almost-and-not-yet state God so often asks us to wait in?

Solomon's conclusion is that God is up to something big and it's beyond what we can understand. It requires our lives to both stay the same, and to change regularly. To live today for what it is, a gift from God to embrace what He has for us in this day, whether is be weeping or laughing and to do it with eternity in our hearts.

Praying for our dear sisters in Christ as we begin and close seasons in our lives together.

With much love, Kelli

and Your Women's Ministry Team

Cindy, Aundrea, Lori, Dianne, Trudi, Michele, Karen, Jody

