

Sermon Series

The Season of Formation

Foundational Text

Romans 8:29 Mirror Translation

“For those He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the exact image of His Son”

January 4, 2026

Sermon Title -- Entering a Season of Formation

Sermon Text -- Ecclesiastes 3:1 NRSV

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

INTRO.

Here we are again – the first Sunday of a new year ... I hope you all enjoyed what we would call the holiday season ... I don't know about you – but it seems once we hit Thanksgiving – you blink and here we are in January ... Even though the past five weeks have flown by – I hope you had some time to enjoy – relax – and to reflect upon the past year.

Now that we are stepping into a new year – the Lord has placed a clear word in my heart ... I have been preaching for nearly 4 decades – and I'll be honest – I have never had such a clear direction for the new year as I do now ... This journey we will embark upon – was birthed out of my desire to discover – the biblical characteristics of someone who truly experienced Pentecost ... That journey began to turn into a study of the book of Acts ... From there we landed in Acts 9 – where we discovered Paul's collision with Jesus – Ananias' formation to carry destiny – and a whole lot more ... From this discovery – the Lord awakened and stirred my heart – concerning the direction and mystical truths – we will walk into.

As we go forward – we will not rush ... We will allow the Spirit to unfold these revelational truth as He see fit ... So, this morning – let's be attentive to what the Spirit has to say to His

Ekklesia ... But more importantly – let's give the Spirit permission to have His will and way in our life ... Now – let's dive in.

What Type of Season are We Entering Into?

Ephesians 2:10 Amplified Bible

For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], ... created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, ... which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], ... so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

Now let's be crystal clear concerning the journey we are about to take ... We are entering into a season of formation / transformation ... Where the Potter is desiring to form His clay – into the image of His dear son ... Where the seed must be planted into good ground – so that in due season – it will produce good fruit ... God desires to form us – for the eternal purposes – that we have been created to walk out.

We must grasp this concept ... God works in seasons – not in moments ... A season of formation will take time ... It will involve intention ... It will involve a process ... There are no short cuts – only a disciplined process – through cooperation with the Spirit ... God's intention is to form His kingdom within us ... Knowing this – the question becomes – “why is this formation necessary?”

Why is Formation even Necessary

1 Corinthians 15:49-51 Amplified Bible

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly [the man of dust], ... we will also bear the image of the heavenly [the Man of heaven] ... 50 Now I say this, believers, - that flesh and blood cannot inherit nor be part of the kingdom of God; ... nor does the perishable (mortal) inherit the imperishable (immortal). ... 51 Listen very carefully, - I tell you a mystery [a secret truth

decreed by God and previously hidden, but now revealed]; ... we will not all sleep [in death], - but we will all be [completely] changed [wondrously transformed],

Here we discover – formation is necessary because it is the means of Kingdom life ... We also clearly see that flesh and blood cannot inherit – nor be part of the Kingdom of God ... Simply stated – a human being who has gained some spiritual knowledge – and did some behavioral modification – due to what he had learned – will not inherit the Kingdom ... Let's go a bit deeper with this thought.

Indoctrination is the means of this natural realm ... Along with indoctrination – conformity to said indoctrination has become the way of life ... We clearly see this through the formations of the various Christian denominations ... Let me give you a personal example for clarity ... In 1989 – I was ordained in the Baptist denomination – when I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit – the pastor of that ordaining church asked me to return my ordination certificate ... Why? – because I no longer “conformed” to the beliefs of that denomination.

What indoctrination to a religious ideology has created in the church – is a hybrid human / spiritual being ... A human / spiritual being – is a person who can act like the world – or can act “spiritual” – by simply flipping a switch ... And this switch flipping is completely dependent on the situation they find themselves in ... For example – when this person is in a spiritual atmosphere – they will worship – pray in tongues – lay hands-on people – and even see them healed ... But then – while driving home after that spiritual event – they will argue and fight with their spouse or kids – cuss out the guy who cut them off in traffic – and eat supper like a glutton – while drinking like a fish ... Let me give you another perspective ... A hybrid being can sound and act like a saint – or they can sound and act like the devil – depending upon the situation they find themselves in ... They are completely ego-driven rather than Spirit-led.

Let's be clear – religious training and indoctrination – no matter how well practiced through behavioral modification – will never transform the mind – nor form the heart – which is required in order to carry your divine destiny. ... We clearly discovered this as we journeyed

through the book of Acts – and especially from chapter 9 ... This is why formation is necessary ... Information alone can never change a human being from a sinner to a saint ... Formation is not about behavior management — it is about living – as a new creation being ... Hybrid being live from operating switches and creating compartments – depending upon circumstances ... Kainos beings live from oneness – from a single – internal source – which Paul clearly states as – Christ in you ... Catch this the best you can ... Jesus never called people to manage two separate natures – HE called them into oneness ... He clearly states that He is the vine and we are the branches – we are no longer “two but one in spirit” ... Paul admonishes us to:

Ephesians 4:22-24 New Living Translation

throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, - which is corrupted by lust and deception. ... 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ... 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

There is no doubt that formation / transformation is necessary – in order to be conformed into the image of His Son – along with becoming a partaker of the Kingdom ... With these two things in mind ... Now the question becomes – “what will this journey actually look like – that will bring about true transformation / formation in our life?”

What will this Journey Look Like?

Philippians 1:6 The Voice

I am confident that the Creator, - - who has begun such a great work among you, - - will not stop in mid-design - - but will keep perfecting you - - until the day Jesus the Anointed, our Liberating King, returns to redeem the world.

Let's grasp some core principles concerning this journey we are about to embark upon:

First - - This journey will focus on becoming a Kainos being ... It will involve the destruction of a religious hybrid being – so that the true kainos being may be awakened and arise – as a Kingdom kid

2 Corinthians 5:17 New Living Translation

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; and a new life has begun!

Second - - It will be a journey of repetition ... We learn by repetition ... This is true naturally and it is true spiritually ... When we hear something once – it passes through the mind ... When we hear it again and again – it begins to settle in ... When we speak it out loud – share it with others – and reflect upon it – over time it takes root in our inner man ... This is how our mind becomes transformed and how our soul is formed ... God doesn't repeat Himself because we are ignorant ... He repeats because – repetition is how truth moves from information that we hear – into a belief that transforms us into a kainos being.

2 Peter 1:12-13 New Living Translation

Therefore, I will always remind you about these things – even though you already know them - and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. ... 13 And it is only right - that I should keep on reminding you - as long as I live.

Third - - This journey will be intentional ... We will not rush – as this is about allowing God to do His work within us – the works that He has already started ... It is about being purposeful with every step we take ... It is about being disciplined – being equipped to become children of God – who will manifest the Kingdom here upon this earth ... And lastly – it is about hearing when all is said and done – “Well done – thou good and faithful servant – enter into the joy of the Lord”

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 New Living Translation

So, I run with purpose in every step ... I am not just shadowboxing ... 27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should ... Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

Philippians 3:13-15 The Voice

Brothers and sisters, - as I said, - I know I have not arrived; - - but there's one thing I am doing: ... I'm leaving my old life behind, - - putting everything on the line for this mission. ... 14 I am sprinting toward the only goal that counts: - - to cross the line, - - to win the prize, - - and to

hear God's call to resurrection life - found exclusively in Jesus the Anointed. ... 15 All of us who are mature - - ought to think the same way about these matters. ... If you have a different attitude, - then God will reveal this to you as well.

Now with all this being said ... There is only one question that remains ... "Will you allow God to complete the work He has begun in you?" ... Will you cooperate with the Holy Spirit as His desire is to conform you into the image of Jesus? ... The ball is in your court ... We are going to take this journey ... Will you come along – so that you may become a partaker of the Kingdom you have been birthed into.

Take Away

Psalm 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 New Living Translation

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? ... You do not belong to yourself, ... 20 for God bought you with a high price. ... So, you must honor God with your body.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 The Voice

Moses: 19 I'm calling on the heavens and the earth to be the witnesses against you ... I gave you the choice today between life and death, - - between being blessed or being cursed. ... Choose life, so that you and your descendants may live! ... 20 If you love the Eternal your God and listen to His voice and always remain loyal to Him, - - for He is your life, - - then you'll be able to live a long time in the land the Eternal promised to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.