

Bloom!

John 10:7-11

Introduction

The gospel is THE three-act story. The biblical authors did not present the story of the Bible in three acts so we could understand it better. Instead, we understand stories better because they reflect the storyline of the gospel. We were created for stories that echo the gospel. Every Christian has the gospel storyline in their life. We all have a creation, fall, redemption, and God will resolve our story as well. If you were looking in at the story of your life right now, what would you see? Are you at a peak or are you in a valley? Are you flourishing? Flourishing should bring to mind a vigorous state of thriving and prospering; of luxuriant growth. Are you languishing? Languishing is spiritual apathy.

All Different

God made you to do something. Everyone is different and everyone has different skills and strengths. And not only do you all have different skills but God has ways to use those skills that you might not have even considered. Exodus 31:1-5 Every one of you is unique. We do not all have to look the same. We are unique characters in the story.

Time is Short

We've been given the time the Lord has given and that's it. Psalm 90:10, Ephesians 5:15-17 We have to use time wisely. We have to view it as precious. Psalm 90:12

Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are and help us to spend them as we should.

Thief or Shepherd

There is an adversary. John 10:10. The thief, Satan, will do everything he can to rob you of an abundant life. To kill and destroy your contentment, your peace. 1 Peter 5:8. This is warfare. That is why Paul writes about us having armor in Ephesians 6.

Looking at yourself in the story you need to determine what kind of character you are. Are you languishing or flourishing? A flourishing person will have languishing times. And we need to understand what languishing looks like.

Languishing

Who are you trying to be? Do you pretend to be someone you are not? Do you think you should be someone else? Who do other people want you to be? Who are you afraid God wants you to be? Or are you drifting?

Busy

You make time for what's important no matter how busy you are. Where are the things of God in your list? Bible reading, family devotionals, devoted prayer time, the things of the church, the people of the church. God uses busy people.

Apathy

Loss of zeal. Romans 12:11, Acts 8:1-8, 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

Some grow careless and apathetic, concerned more with their own comfort and well-being than with the command of Christ that we should follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:21.

Lukewarm

Lukewarm religion seems to be what many Christians aim for so they can live comfortably in the culture but still hang on to their personal beliefs. Revelation 3:15-17.

The greatest danger to the world is lukewarm Christianity.

Lost Reverence

What makes Christian apathy so serious, is the fact that we are lukewarm about the person of Christ. Languishing Christians have lost a reverence for the Lord. Revelation 5:11-13.

Chameleons

Languishing Christians live like chameleons. They blend in to the surroundings they find themselves in. Matthew 6:24. No one can serve two masters.

No Accountability

Languishing Christians live with no accountability. Psalm 139:23-24.

Being Intentional

Flourishing Christians are intentional about spiritual growth. 2 Peter 1:3-10. Be intentional, make every effort, be diligent, practice...be disciplined, be disciples. Ecclesiastes 9:10. Do it with all your might. We've got to quit embracing apathy and half-heartedness.

Study and Memorization and Prayer

Turn your mind to the things above which then give the Holy Spirit the opening to work in your life. A Spirit-oriented focus needs to become the established pattern of your life. Psalm 1.

Bloom

God intends for you to flourish right where you're at. It does not matter where you are. Jeremiah 29. Jeremiah tells the exiles to thrive where they are. God put them there. It was no accident. Bloom where you are planted.

Conclusion

It's Act 3. God is reconciling all things to himself. You are living the gospel story. You've been redeemed. You have been given all things through Christ. Bloom where you are planted. Psalm 92:12-15.