

Lifeshift

2nd/3rd Gear: Spiritual Transitions

You and I have a series of transitions to navigate “under the sun”...

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 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, 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... (Eccl. 3:1-8)

2nd/3rd Gear: navigating significant transitions through...

- **Spiritual stability: steady the soul on what will not change** – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb. 13:8)
 - **The character of God** – “I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.” (Mal. 3:6)
 - **The word of God** – “Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.” (Psalm 119:89)

I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. (Luke 6:47-48)

- **Spiritual flexibility: turn the page with God** – “Yet I call this to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lam. 3:21-23)
- **Spiritual community: support and counsel amidst the change** – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:16)

The potential in present transitions: they can lead to spiritual transformation...

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. (1 Cor. 13:11)

The hope of the ultimate transition: eternal redemption...

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality... Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. (1 Cor. 15:51-53, 58)