



The summer is quickly drawing to a close and a new season is about to begin. We know this will happen, one season follows another, we know the pattern. So can I ask you if you are ready for a new season in church? Its natural for us to know the seasonal changes in life but much harder to realize and understand that God also has new seasons for us as individuals and for his church. God is always leading us to experience a new season but we seem to fight so hard to avoid it happening. We love the way things are and have been, we are comfortable, we feel warm and fuzzy in the familiar, right? I want to encourage you to look forward to a new season that God is creating for us all, he is doing something new and perhaps we can't see it?

God puts dreams in our hearts and he writes a story that is perfect and planned for our lives. Now all we have to learn to do is to trust Him enough to take Him at His word, so that we can be on this journey that leads us to the fulfillment of that dream. We have to be aware that the path that takes us to the place God has planned for us has many twists and turns, side roads and bumps for us to navigate. I hope that you agree with me when I say that in life nothing worth having ever comes easy or without opposition. These storms come, and knock us around but I have learnt that these things happen to allow God to refine me and mold me into the person he wants me to be. This is all part of the

plan as he prepares us for the new season. Ephesians 3:20 tells us that He wants to do abundantly above and beyond all that we could ever ask or think, but there's a twist in this verse...it's according to His work within us. It all hinges on how much He's allowed to work in us, that will determine what he can do through us.

So what is the new season that I believe God has before us? I want you to think about the last few years which I believe has been a season of refining for us. We have been leaning into God, deepening our faith, getting involved in the mess of life, serving and supporting the community but this is only the beginning, the start of refining. The more we are willing to humble ourselves, and let God have His way in our lives, the more we will be able to see the new season God is preparing.

We need to trust that our loving God knows the place that he is leading us. Look around and see what the Lord is doing. I see him leading us and strengthening our faith. I see a new season that takes us deeper into mission, so that we impact more of those in need, I see us supporting young families as they journey and navigate the complex life that they face from day to day, I see young people finding a place that is relevant, empowering and a haven for them to seek and serve God. I see beautiful things happening. Why? Because God is the creator of beautiful things!

Our youth group kickoff has seen many new young people, there is a new season ahead for our youth, I'm sure. I see a church that responds to help in the Lincoln community and school, I see a church that hears of a someone who was homeless and now has an apartment but nothing else other than the four walls and in one day completely furnish and provide for her needs. I hear of so many people helped through our Care Portal ministry. I see many hands grabbing on to the plough and not looking back but looking forward. This is the start of a new season, there is a long way to go and we will have our ups and downs but together we can make this new season beautiful and plentiful.

Here's my question for you: Do you have a sense of how God wants to use you in this new season and are you ready for a great calling on your life? A new day is dawning, we just need to be awake and up to see it.

