

# Embracing Endings

## New Endings: Making Way for What's Next

### January 5, 2025

**Endings are natural, normal, and necessary.**

**God uses endings to grow us, bless us, bring what's new/next into our lives, and fulfill His greater purposes.**

**Which mindset towards endings do you have?**

- Unaware and unwilling
- Aware and willing

**Avoiding endings keeps us stuck and in pain, but embracing them opens the door to growth, opportunity, and what God has for us.**

*“<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a **season**, a time for every activity under heaven. <sup>2</sup>A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. <sup>3</sup>A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. <sup>4</sup>A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. <sup>5</sup>A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. <sup>6</sup>A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. <sup>7</sup>A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. <sup>8</sup>A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NLT)*

*“<sup>24</sup>I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.” John 12:24-25 (NLT)*

*“<sup>22</sup>**Throw off** your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. <sup>23</sup>Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup>Put on your **new** nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.” Ephesians 4:22-24 (NLT)*

**For the new to begin the old must first end.**

**Is there anything that God is clearly calling you to end?**

*“<sup>1</sup>One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on Him to listen to the word of God. <sup>2</sup>He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So He sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. <sup>4</sup>When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, ‘Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.’ <sup>5</sup>‘Master,’ Simon replied, ‘we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. **But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again.**’” Luke 5:1-5 (NLT)*

**Faith ≠ understanding.**

**Faith = obedience.**

*“<sup>6</sup>And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! <sup>7</sup>A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. <sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, ‘Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.’ <sup>9</sup>For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. <sup>10</sup>His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!’ <sup>11</sup>And as soon as they landed, **they left everything and followed Jesus.**” Luke 5:6-11 (NLT)*