

**Strength to Strength:
Growing Through Seasons of Consolation and Desolation**

Psalm 84:1-7

What do we experience in these seasons?

Consolation: Seasons of Strength

S_____

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. *John 10:28*

S_____

I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. *Psalm 18:1-3*

S_____

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27*

Desolation: Seasons of "To"

R_____

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. *Genesis 12:1*

After they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. *Acts 13:3*

R_____

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." *Lk 22: 31-32*

4. How have you been able to use what you have learned in the seasons of consolation/strength and desolation/"to" to encourage others?

5. What kind of season are you currently experiencing? How can your GG support you in prayer or practically?

Prayer:

R_____

Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:20-21

How might we think about seasons?

N_____

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 3:17- 4:1

N_____

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

N_____

Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:13

What do we learn more deeply through these seasons?

G_____ - "All is gift" Jim Olson

G_____ - "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Julian of Norwich

G_____ - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1Thessalonians 5:18

Study Notes:

Getting Started:

1. With whom do you feel most at home? Why?

Digging Deeper

Read Psalm 84

1. What has been your experience with seasons of consolation/strength? In those seasons what have you learned about God and about yourself? How have you grown?
2. What has been your experience with seasons of desolation/"to"? In those seasons what have you learned about God and about yourself? How have you grown?
3. Read 2 Samuel 5 22-25. It describes David in a valley of balsam trees (Baca), reminiscent of the "Valley of Baca" in Psalm 84:6-7. How did the Lord meet David in 2 Samuel 5:22-25? What encouragement does this give you as you walk through the "Valley of Baca", which can also mean the "Valley of weeping."