



“How Ministry Happens in Cycles”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-13

1. The cycle of overcoming my past.
2. The cycle of personal growth.
3. The cycle of exhaustion.
4. The cycle of maturity.

Here's the Problem...

Almost nobody stays long enough to reach the 4th cycle. Pastors and parishioners don't quit during the growth cycle, when everything is working in their life and the ministry! They quit during the exhaustion cycle. Sometimes we don't understand that the vision will tarry and/or go silent. Then, the person who said, *'I'll be with you forever'*, just sent a text saying their season is up. So, they leave, not ministry, just this church. Now here's what they don't know, they didn't escape the cycle. They simply restarted it! New church, new building, new people, new senior leadership, but the same you!

One of the greatest mistakes you can ever make is leaving when it gets hard. Because how you leave one church becomes how you join the next one. That doesn't stay behind. It follows you into the next building, the next meeting, and the next conflict. You didn't survive your exhaustion cycle on grit! You survived it because you knew your purpose and believed in the vision of your church and God's plan for your life.

