

Published based on [A Time to Uproot](#)

A Time to Uproot

A Time to Pluck Up

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven--

²A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

We've had a lot of rain here in northwest Alabama this fall. A lot of rain. The ground is soft everywhere. And it just keeps raining.

One Sunday recently my friend Marie Lewey was leading worship. She talked about the rain and referenced how we could just soak in God's presence. And that we did. God showed up in such beautiful ways.

In the midst of what Marie was sharing, she mentioned that when the ground was saturated, it was a good time to pull things up. She said that she and her husband Ronnie had recognized that it was a good time to work in the flower beds on this particular weekend, pulling weeds, removing annuals and relocating some perennials. "It was so much easier because the ground was saturated," she said.

I thought of how the condition of the ground allowed the plants to be uprooted with far less effort, less trauma to the plants, and how the roots were better separated from the soil.

I could see the picture in my mind. A big strong hand pulling up a dying flower with the roots hanging down covered with wet soil. And I thought of this verse. ***There is a time to uproot what is planted.***

Some things that are planted do need to be uprooted. An annual's season comes to an end. Having completed its cycle in one year, its purpose has passed and its beauty has faded.

Other plants need to be uprooted because they were never supposed to be in our garden in the first place. Weeds creep in and spring up. Often seeds from other plants get carried by the wind and find a place to take root where they don't belong. Instead, they use up the good soil and moisture, depleting what is needed for the other plants to thrive.

There are seasons for uprooting just as there are seasons for planting. During the planting seasons it would prove inappropriate to uproot. I've found that to be true spiritually. Sometimes when we are ministering to people, we plant into their lives, knowing that it takes time for strong root systems to grow and develop. Other times God uses us in a season of uprooting in someone's heart. Those weeds that come to steal, kill and destroy have to go. It takes a great deal of effort, because their roots can thrive undercover, establishing a stronghold. But if successful, the uprooting leaves ground for new growth. The uprooting makes room for the new season.

For the annual, if we are not able to pull up the entire root system, we will just have a lot of unhealthy root systems left under the ground. They will cause the new flower to have to work harder to establish its own root system because the old roots are in the way.

When the rain of God's Spirit has saturated the ground of our hearts, its time to allow God's strong hand to reach in and pull up what is out of season, what is not needed, what is in the way. In the delicate care of people, it takes The Master Gardener of Creation, God's Spirit to show us the season.

Is the ground of your heart soft today? Or perhaps you are just beginning to feel the rain. Remember that there really is a season for everything.

You can also find this article published on [A Time to Uproot](#), and on the tag pages [eccl 3](#), [Ecclesiastes 3](#)

, [Ecclesiastes chapter3](#), [Ecclesiastes season](#), [ecclesiastes seasons](#), [Ecclesiastes There is a Season](#), [everything has its season](#), [season](#), [uprooting](#).