



Tensions in Times

Ecclesiastes
3:1-14 (NKJV)



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1914-1986

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From 1962-1982



I. Two Tensions in Our Lives



I. Two Tensions in Our Lives

A. Earthly, Temporal, Visible Activity
and

Heavenly, Eternal, Invisible Activity



I. Two Tensions in Our Lives

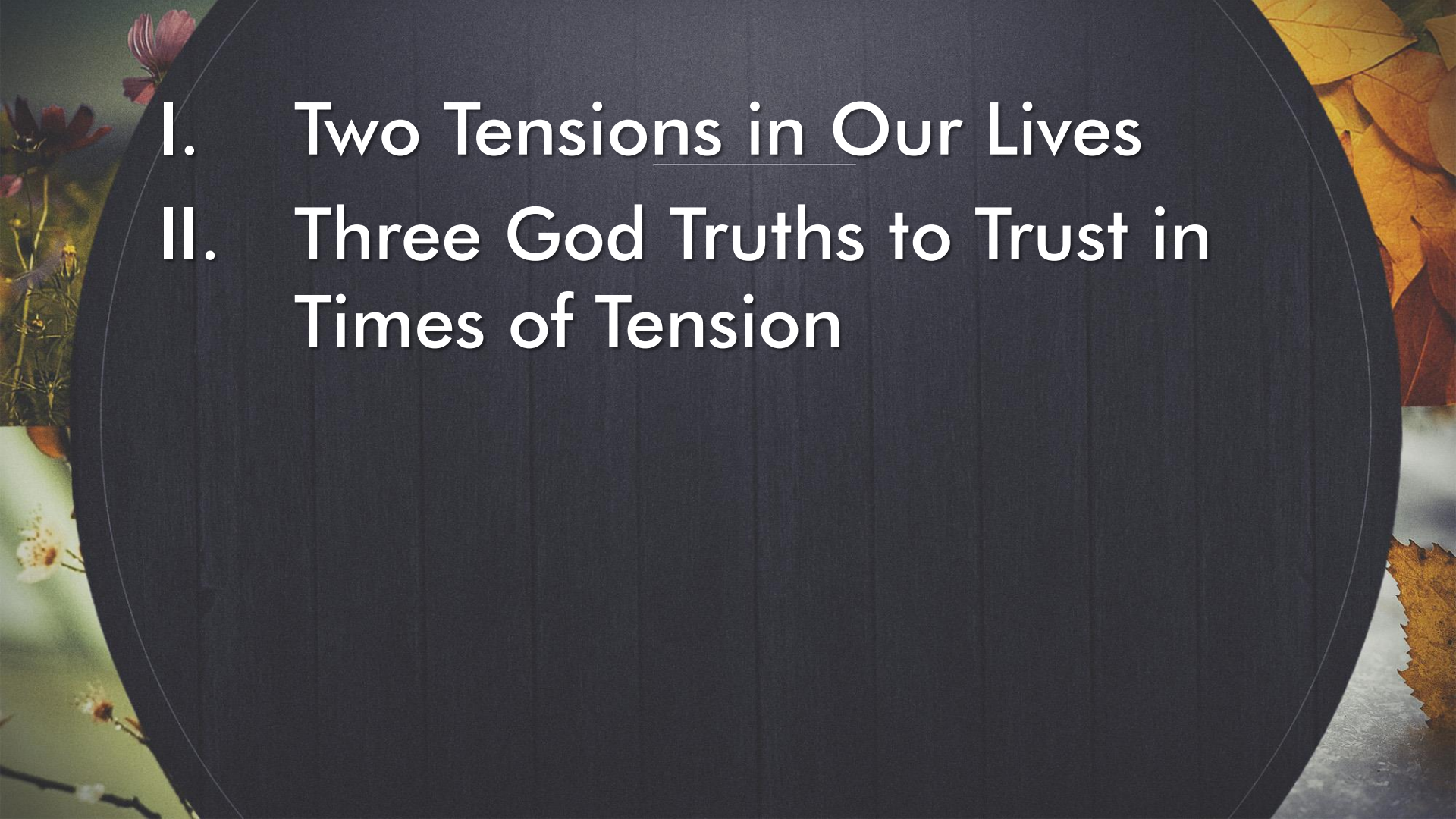
A. Earthly, Temporal, Visible Activity
and

Heavenly, Eternal, Invisible Activity

B. Inside / Being and Outside / Doing

Ecclesiastes 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.

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- I. Two Tensions in Our Lives
 - II. Three God Truths to Trust in Times of Tension

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Tensions in Times



II. Three God Truths to Trust in Times of Tension

A. He Has Made Everything Beautiful
in Its Time

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

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Kintsugi or Kintsukuroi

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210107-kintsugi-japans-ancient-art-of-embracing-imperfection> (Credit: riya-takahashi/Getty Images)



II. Three God Truths to Trust in Times of Tension

- A. He Has Made Everything Beautiful
in Its Time
- B. He Has Placed Eternity in Our
Hearts

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

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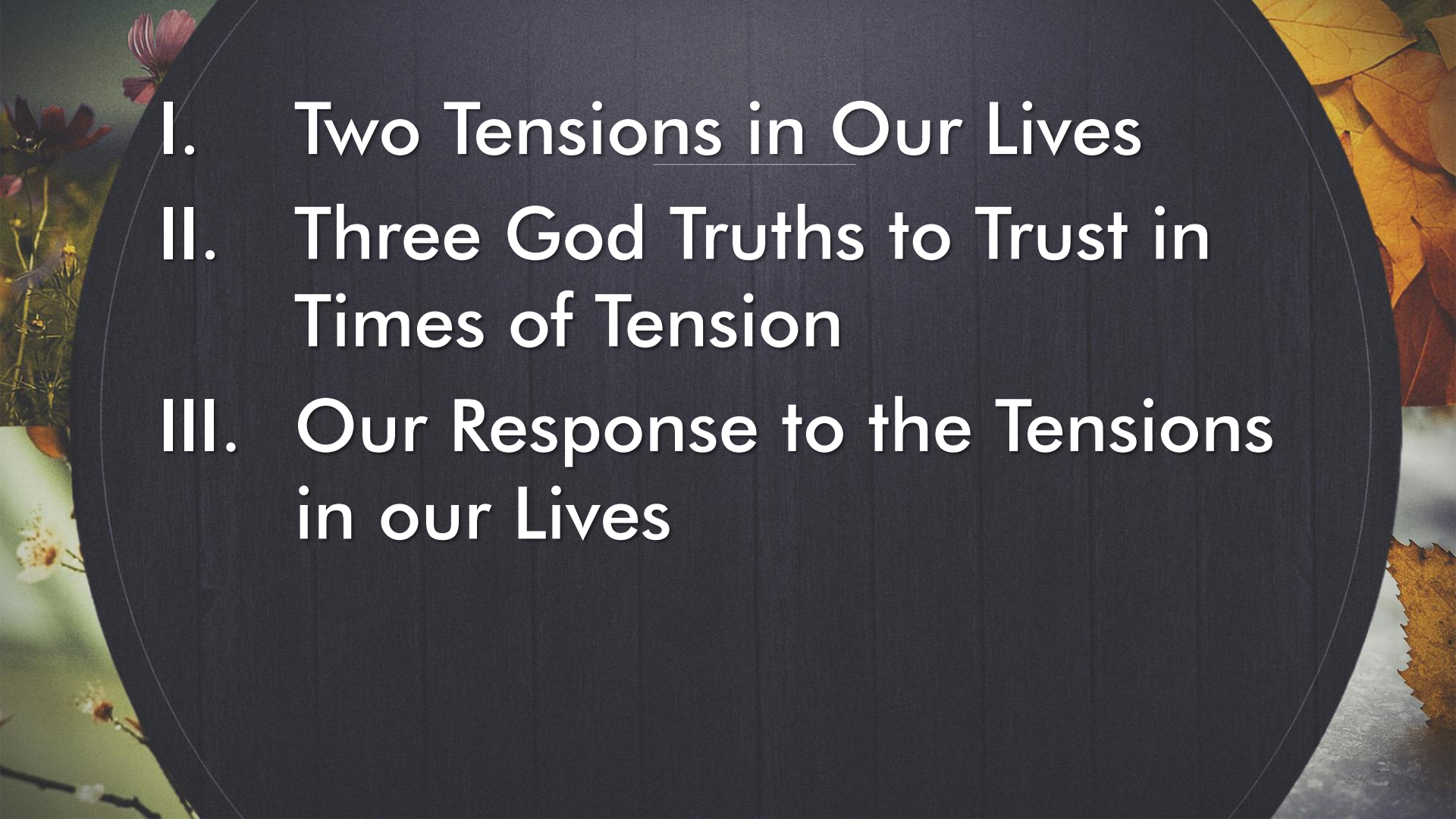
II. Three God Truths to Trust in Times of Tension

- A. He Has Made Everything Beautiful
in Its Time
- B. He Has Placed Eternity in Our
Hearts
- C. He is Working

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time.
Also He has put eternity in their hearts,
except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Tensions in Times

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- I. Two Tensions in Our Lives
 - II. Three God Truths to Trust in Times of Tension
 - III. Our Response to the Tensions in our Lives

Ecclesiastes 3:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does *it*, that men should fear before Him.

Ecclesiastes 2-9 Summed Up:

Begin

Accept

Hold Onto

Rejoice

End

Reject

Give Up

Mourn

Questions

1. Find the song "Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is A Season)" written by Pete Seeger in 1959 and play the Byrds version of it released in 1965.
2. What impressions or thoughts do you have as you listen to the song?
3. Which season (Fall, Winter, Spring, or Summer) do you like the most? Like the least? Why?

Questions (continued)

4. Pastor Randy gives 2 tensions in his message: Which of the two do you have the greatest problems balancing or making wise decisions with in your life? Which is easiest for you? How does the Luke 10:38-42 passage help to clarify this tension?

Earthly, Temporal,
Visible Activity

and

Heavenly, Eternal,
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Inside / Being

and

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Questions (continued)

5. In Ecclesiastes 3:11a, how have you seen God make everything beautiful in its time?
6. In Ecclesiastes 3:11b, how have you seen the placing of eternity in the human heart? How does that practically play out in the lives of people you know?
7. How does Ecclesiastes 3:11c convey the idea of God working behind the scenes in all of our “times and seasons?” How does the fact that God and Jesus are working behind the scenes impact your doubts, fears, worries and spiritual life?

Questions (continued)

8. Read Ecclesiastes 3:14; 12:13-14. What is the fear of the Lord? How does reverence or awe or respect of God impact our living in these tensions we face in life?
9. Read the following Proverbs and relate how these speak to the impact that the fear of the Lord would have on our dealing with and decisions with the tensions in our daily life.

Proverbs 1:7 (NASB) 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 (NASB) 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Questions (continued)

10. Pastor Randy had in his outline the following.
Are you stuck? Do you live in regret or bitterness or unforgiveness? In regards to your tensions and struggles in life, how does the following speak to you and give you hope and wisdom to cope and to make decisions?

Questions (continued)

Ecclesiastes 3:2-9 Summed Up:

Begin

Accept

Hold Onto

Rejoice

End

Reject

Give Up

Mourn

Questions (continued)

Accept what you haven't achieved

/

Give thanks for what you have been able to achieve.

Accept what you can't do anymore

/

Give thanks for what you can do now.

Accept the loss of what is gone

/

Give thanks for what He is bringing into your life now.

Accept the changes that are happening

/

Give thanks for what is still the same.

Accept being challenged to do new things

/

Give thanks for wisdom given to figure new things out.

Accept the hurt of losing friendships
as they were

/

Give thanks for shared memories with friends.

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