

In the previous meditation, we said that there were three components for any transition: clarity of purpose, the voice and the leading of God and due time. Today we will be considering the time factor. We will look at it from an individual perspective as opposed to a worldwide perspective. We will bring it down to us here, in the now.

Acts 1:6-7 KJV

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? [7] And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

One important truth about our walk with God is that He is a planner. As it relates to us as a church and also as individuals, there is a time for everything, *Ecclesiastes 3:1*. Why? Even though God dwells in eternity past and He is eternal, in the earth realm, He walks with time.

What is a season? It is a period marked by a particular emphasis or operation. Farmers know that there are seasons where they do not see particular types of fruit. There are many seasons: Summer, winter, Spring and Autumn. God uses this to give light to His operations. Just the way a season does not go on for the entire year, God places specific things at specific times. God deals with us in seasons. We said earlier that even though Jesus was manifested to deal with the works of satan, at a certain point in time, He was concerned with fetching firewood, turning water to wine, etc. It is also important to know that God engages us in seasons. Seasons come with unique assignments, instructions, directions and promises.

One key thing that pertains to us all now is a discussion of purpose. As much as there is a definition of what you are designed for, a seasonal engagement of what is needful is important at that time. Considering the life cycle of a butterfly, at every phase, something is happening with the butterfly. You have the larvae, Caterpillar, Pupa, and the full butterfly. Before it transitions, something happens. In the larvae stage, it breaks out of the shell and eats it, which gives it capacity to begin the transformation process. Next it begins to eat leaves. As it does that, over time, it is prepared to advance. Every season has an emphasis, there is a time for seed and there is a time for harvest, *Genesis 8:22*.

There are three important things we must know concerning seasons.

1. Every season has an emphasis. There is a time for seed and harvest.
2. Every season is preparatory. There is a seed time because of harvest time, there is a winter because of summer. There is night because of the day.
3. There is an expected end product for every season.

These factors are very important. If there is anytime that we need to be intentional with our walk with God, it is now. There is a service dimension to your call. It is not just about being a believer. It is the Father's business, and everybody has a unique part to play. No season is dormant. Even though Jesus was to destroy the work of the devil, *1 John 3:8*, there was a transition period.

1 Samuel: 17:34 shows David dealing with bears and lions. For every unique individual in the bible, there was a process. We see Moses serving Jethro, we see Jesus as a child with Mary and Joseph. There was a time when He was studying and asking question, *Luke 2*. Paul as well was not exempt, *Galatians 1:14-16*. We will lay emphasis on David.

1 Samuel 17:34 KJV

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

There are specific things the Lord turns our eyes to in each season. It is very easy to be distracted and loose focus, but this shepherd boy kept his father's sheep. One thing the Lord began to emphasize to me is the importance of seasonal assignments and the engagement of seasons. The bible says to stir up the gift of God by the laying on of hands by the presbytery, *1 timothy 4:14*. We need to recognize the uniqueness of every man in the house. Each man has a grace and a task which he does by the divine enablement of the Lord. Because it is his Father's business, there are specific instructions he must follow. David was ordained to be a king, but first he had to shepherd his fathers flock and so did Moses. The Lord began to emphasize the stirring up of the gifts inside of you. It might be a season of lock down at the moment, but there is the gift of the internet at this time that allows expression of the gift of God in us. There are seasonal engagements of your assignments. All these tasks are not necessarily church, or Sunday related. Purpose is the thing that gives you fulfilment, The bible said my meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, *John 4:34*. What the Lord does is that he engages us in seasons. We may not be David, but we need to ask ourselves, what has the Lord given me to keep. What am I given as a responsibility in this seasons; every

season is transitory. If we are talking about transition into the next, we must talk about faithfulness in the house. Gifts and talents, business ideas, burdens to do things in the house of God are all things that have been given to you to keep. David kept His father's sheep. The bible says it is expected in stewardship that a man be found faithful, *1 Corinthians 4:2*. One thing that will be prominent in these times is an engagement, both from the Lord to us and from us to the Lord; from us to the Lord in terms of our devotion and faithfulness and Him to us in terms of projects He commits into our hands.

Going back to David in *1 Samuel 17:35-40*, we see David, confident about his ability via God to kill Goliath. He was given armoury that he had not "proved". David was already used to something, as it pertained to defense or service. They gave him an armoury. It made sense to use that to go face a war with battle juggernauts. However, by reason of use, he had learned how to use a sling, not an armoury. He was going to enter a time when Israel was going to appreciate a shepherd boy, it made sense for Him to use what everyone was used to, but he had not "proved" it. He was going to enter a new season and his skill was based on faithfulness to what he had. Again, what is in your hands? One of the worst feeling as a student is when you had the impression to study for a particular question while studying, you skipped it and then saw the same question as a key question in your exam. The preparatory stage is arguably more important than the war, this is because the preparation increases your capacity.

One of the most incapacitating things that hinders the expression of purpose is fear. It is a paralytic agent in the expression of purpose, *2 Timothy 1:7*. What is in your hand and how are you using it? For David, in this season, what he needed was to keep sheep. You will realize that it was the same Rod Moses used as a shepherd, that he used to deliver and lead the children of Israel. The exercising is necessary. For some, it is the fear, not the lack of clarity that holds them back. We need to be deliberate. The season calls for exercising what we have. In the physical, your muscles do not grow unless you exercise yourself, lifting heavier weights. The Lord can put people in your heart to pray for and then communities. And when next you pray, you have visions regarding that person or community. This is not because anything was added to you, but it is an increase in the grace, based on use. Growth is dependent on your ability to engage God, who is ever available as a result of what is already done; He gives you a gift, and you put that thing to use. Man was not created for himself; he was created for Gods pleasure, *Revelations 4:11*.

Declare it: Seasonal Engagement: it is profitable for increase in capacity.

1 Samuel 17:36 KJV

Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

Looking at the above verse, David said the uncircumcised philistine shall be as one of them. This means, it is not the combined experience, but the value of an experience that matters. The usual cause of casualty is the lack of subjecting oneself to process. Most of the things we are doing today are not necessarily for the now. We must be able to see things from a long-term perspective. David's answer, saying Goliath will be as 'one' of them, not as both, shows us the importance of the process. Someone can say I am complete in Christ and I need nothing else, that is false. It is not every time we hear sweet words from the Lord, sometimes, it is a rebuke or a chastisement that is meant to bring out righteousness. He engages us by giving us instructions, promises and tasks to build our capacity, but we engage Him by our devotion, focus and obedience.

Benefiting from the process takes devotion, focus and patience. The process is educative. We will consider a case study of two people. One clearly benefitted more from the process. Peter and Paul. God clearly told Peter go into the world and make disciples, *Matthew 28:19*, but when Jesus died, what was on his mind was "I go afishing", *John 21:3*. Jesus had to realign him, saying "If you love me, feed my sheep", *John 21:17*.

We see another person, Paul. Immediately he confirmed that the Lord was calling him to purpose, he separated Himself, *Galatians 1:16*. This doesn't have to be only Sunday related. With new phases comes a higher level of grace, persecutions and glory and it takes greater capacity both in character and in faithfulness. The widow in the time of Elisha was told to gather vessels. It was not an issue with the oil, the oil was enough to give. It was a thing with the capacity and number of vessels, *2 Kings 4:3*. There is so much that the Lord has deposited in us. However, when seasonal engagement is ignored, what comes out is not necessarily the best, *Hebrews 5:12*.

Isaiah 54:2-3 NET

Make your tent larger, stretch your tent curtains farther out! Spare no effort, lengthen your ropes, and pound your stakes deep. [3] For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your children will conquer nations and will resettle desolate cities.

The verse above shows there is effort needed. We know that we are the symbolic dwelling place of the Lord. There are times when there is an investment to increase capacity. There are greater responsibilities coming, but exercise the tent that is already there, stretch it. You alone know the things that are in your hearts. We should not become fat and kicking, pregnant with ideas without execution, *Deuteronomy 32:15*. If the Lord is telling you to read books, then read books, if it is to pray, then pray. The end-product would be enlargement.

When we talk about increase in capacity, what do we mean?

1. **Capacity with the Word:** When the Lord begins to emphasize on increased capacity, this means there will be opportunities that will present themselves. *Acts 20:32* shows that by exercising yourself in the Word and by practicing it, you grow, and it gives you an inheritance among them that are sanctified.
2. **Prayers:** *Jude 1:20-21* says you build up yourself in your most holy faith by praying in the Holy ghost. We may have been praying in one line before effectively, but more things may be added to you. Why? Greater grace and relevance in the things of God, which is good in the kingdom.
3. **Greater exercise in gifting.** Even with the restrictions, engage grace and as the Lord permits and allows us to meet on a smaller level, there is need to engage and invest. Life is a marathon, invest and sow. In *Luke 19:13*, the instruction was clear "Occupy till I come". Engage what is already there so that it grows.
4. **Increase in specific knowledge and wisdom.** This pertains to things regarding your own gifting. It may be secular. *Proverbs 24:3-5* shows wisdom, understanding and knowledge is needed.
5. **Be exercised on Love:** Your current operations can give an idea of what the future will look like. If we are going to walk in stronger love, the exercise is in the now, *Colossians 3:12-15*. When we speak of capacity, there is need for this. The bible says endeavour to keep the unity of the body. It did not

say the Holy Spirit will help you, although He will. You need to decide not to be a reason for disunity in the body. God can do without you, but He cannot do without His body. No man is bigger than the body. No mans ego is bigger than the body. What does this mean? The things that used to cause offense before should now be taken with a lighter approach. There is a place for the Word, there is a place for prayer and there is also a place for intention.

Revelations 12:1-4, shows a picture of a woman which speaks of the church, New Jerusalem. This was a woman moving from being pregnant to a mother. There was a transition. The intention of the dragon was to destroy the transition. The devouring of the enemy is not always black and white, it may just be things thrown at us. A person once said we are not worthy of persecution when there is division in the body. We will pray against any attempt to terminate this pregnancy during the transition and also for grace to engage in this season of transition.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40:11