

## **MAXIMIZING SEASONS OF YOUR LIFE PRT 2**

*Joshua 3:1 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. 2 After three days the officers went throughout the camp, 3 giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. 4 Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it."*

- Last week I began to talk on **MAXIMIZING THE SEASONS OF YOUR LIFE PRT 2**.
- We are only a couple of weeks away from 2025 and we need to set ourselves up for a great season ahead.
- Going back to the children of Israel with Joshua, last week we learnt that they understood their time and season. They perceived that it was time to enter the promised land and to lay hold of the promise.
- We learnt that to maximize a season, you need to understand what the season and time is about.

### **1. Develop the understanding of times (spiritual discernment).**

- It is costly in this day and age to be dull spiritually. Your spiritual intelligence will be the difference between success and failure in 2025.
- Not every hand is a hand to further your dreams – you need discernment to distinguish that.
- When Judas kissed Jesus, it was not a kiss of love but rather a kiss of betrayal. You therefore need to perceive who is for you and who is against you.
- This was the difference between the generation that died in the desert and the generation that laid hold of the promised.

*Hebrews 5:14 (AMPC) But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble and what is evil and contrary either to divine or human law.*

- You must seek to develop your faculty of perception. The writer of Hebrews is alluding to the training of one's senses and mental faculties until you attain the maturity to discern your environment.
- God is the one who creates times and seasons. God initiates opportunities for you.
- If God is the initiator of times and seasons, it is only God who can reveal to you what He wants done during the season.

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- To know what God is intending to do, you must spend enough time with Him. You must spend enough time with the source of the season. So, what is the key?

### **1.1 Discipline yourself to wait on the Lord in prayer**

- The secret place is the place of training of your spiritual ears. Your level of prayerfulness determines your level of discernment.
- Something happens to a person that is not in a rush with God – whenever you are in a rush regarding prayer, you will remain immature in your ability to perceive the mind of God.

*Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. 6 This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.*

- Despite being a valiant man, a man of war, David developed the habit of waiting upon the Lord.
- David would inquire of the Lord before engaging his enemies. David mastered the art of waiting on God and as he waited on God, he understood what God wanted to do. It is recorded in scriptures that David inquired of the Lord in nine occasions.
  - Four of those inquiries were in 1 Samuel 23, regarding the men of Keilah,
  - the fifth was in 1 Samuel 30 after the attack on Ziklag,
  - the sixth inquiry was in 2 Samuel 2, regarding whether he should go to Hebron or not,
  - the 7<sup>th</sup> is in 2 Samuel 5 after David had been anointed as king and the Philistines came to attack him.
- Paul says that these things can only be discovered by a man that has trained his faculties.
- When you have untrained faculties, you will continue making careless decisions regarding your destiny.
- Do not rush into things but learn to wait on God before rushing into things. Speed is a factor of clarity of destination. Who told you it is time to leave your job, who told you it is time to move from your current church.
- Many people have experienced spiritual accidents because they went after so called greener pastures. Please understand that green pastures are not just physical locations but rather where the will of God is.

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- Slow down by spending time in prayer inquiring of the Lord. May you not go where God is not.
- When the birth of Samson was prophesied by an angel, Manoah requested for the angel to come back to give them directions on how to raise the child.

*Judges 13:8 And Manoah prayed to Jehovah and said, O, my Lord, let the Man of God, whom You sent, come again to us and teach us what we shall do to the boy that shall be born. 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her.*

- They were told that Samson was going to be a special man and was not to cut his hair and was not touch anything that was dead, and was not drink the fruit of the wine.
- Life will propose many wonderful things but the way to maximize your season is to move from good things and embrace the mind of God.

*Proverbs 3:5 Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear Jehovah and depart from evil.*

- Your discernment will grow when you train yourself to trust the Lord through prayer.
- It is not every opportunity that comes your way that is for you. Take every opportunity to God in prayer.
- Many people are wise in their own eyes and because of that they don't bother to acknowledge God in what they are doing.
- When you start something without acknowledging God, it means that you have the capacity to deal with the any consequences that follows.
- God will only be responsible for what He initiates and not for what you initiate.
- Waiting upon the Lord in prayer heightens your spiritual perceptions. It is in prayer that your ambitious desires die, and you grow in the desires of God.
- The longer you wait on the Lord, the clearer your discernment becomes.
- The day you start praying about a matter, you will discover that for the first few hours and days, it will still be your emotions speaking to you but the longer you wait, there is a shift that takes place.
- Your emotions and desires will start diminishing and the desire of God starts to grow over you.

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*Isaiah 40:30 Even the young shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; 31 but those who wait on Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

- There is a place where your natural intellect and your experience is insufficient. Just like how the young man shall utterly fall. By nature, young men are expected to be strong but that is not so with the ways of God.
- To maximize your time, you need something more than just natural acumen.
- It is those who have mastered the art of waiting upon the Lord who rise with vigor and certainty.
- The phrase, ‘to wait on Yahweh,’ means to wait for his help; that is, to trust in him, to put your hope or confidence in him.
- You need to give God more time – allow God to work in you.
- Many people are too distracted and scattered to perceive what God is doing. Your discernment is dulled because you are always in hurry.
- You are in hurry to leave, you are in a hurry to leave prayer, you are in a hurry to stop your Bible reading.
- That is why Jesus spoke about a closed room approach to prayer.

*Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your inner room, shut your door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

- Yes, close out all the noise around you and do some business with Jesus. That is why Jesus would pray early in the morning or right through the night when it is quiet all around Him.
- Let all your decisions, big and small, be marinated in prayer. Prayer gives perspective.
- There is something about spending extended times of prayer – prayer is like a field being ploughed. Ploughing makes the field ready for the seed to be planted.
- Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights, twice. The first was to receive the commandments and the second time was to receive them again after they were broken

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*Exodus 34: 28* So Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant— the Ten Commandments.

- God was talking to Moses during those prolonged times of prayer – it was there where the commandments were given, it was there that Moses got the understanding of running a nation.
- God will always give perspective whenever you pray regarding a situation.
- Jesus prayed for forty days forty nights as He was about to start His earthly ministry.
- Jesus prayed the whole night before selecting the apostles.
- Jesus prayed three times before He was betrayed. In that instance, Peter and the disciples slept.
- The difference could be seen by how Jesus responded to the kiss of betrayal and how Peter responded.
- Jesus responded with understanding and Peter responded with fleshly impulses.
- What am I saying, sock every moment in prayer to discern the good and perfect will of God for you.