

## Recognizing God's Work in Time's and Season's

### 1. God has a desire for us to recognize our times and seasons.

1. Jesus said we would recognize the seasons of His return. - Matthew 24:32-33 NASBS [32] "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; [33] so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. ...
2. They didn't recognize their time of visitation - Luke 19:28-44
3. Those who did recognize what God was doing - The sons of Issachar - 1 Chronicles 12:23,32 <sup>23</sup>Now these are the numbers of the divisions equipped for war, who came to David at Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD....<sup>32</sup>Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command.

### 2. Some times or seasons are more important than others.

1. There is a time for everything - There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven— <sup>2</sup>A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. <sup>3</sup>A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear down and a time to build up. <sup>4</sup>A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance. <sup>5</sup>A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. <sup>6</sup>A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away. <sup>7</sup>A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. <sup>8</sup>A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.
  1. David stayed home in war time - - <sup>1</sup>Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.
2. Not all time is measured equally - Elisha, the king and the time for victory - 2 Kings 13:14- 19 <sup>14</sup>When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" <sup>15</sup>Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows. <sup>16</sup>Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands. <sup>17</sup>He said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said, "The LORD's arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Aram;

for you will **defeat** the Arameans at Aphek until you have **destroyed them.**" <sup>18</sup> Then he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground," and he struck *it* three times and **stopped.** <sup>19</sup> So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Aram until you would have **destroyed it.** But now you shall strike Aram *only* three times."

1. **Sometimes we have a greater opportunity for more.**
  1. **What we do and how we do what God is speaking effects this time and our future.**
  2. **Serving God with a passion and zeal is Important**
    1. **We are called to be zealous in how we love one another - Romans 12:9-13** <sup>9</sup>Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; <sup>11</sup>not lagging behind in diligence (zeal), fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup>rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, <sup>13</sup>contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.
    2. **Jesus was zealous for God's Purpose - John 2:17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME.
    3. **We are called to be zealous in our work. - Colossians 3:23,24** Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
  3. **This word came as prophetic word and was a response to what God was speaking. It was also done in community.**
3. **It is important to know your Kairos moments and take advantage of your "windows of opportunity."** - Galatians 6:7-10 <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in **due time** we will reap if we do not grow weary. <sup>10</sup> So then, **while** we have **opportunity**, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

### 3. Recognizing both corporate and individual Times and Seasons.

#### 1. Recognizing Our Individual Times

1. There are always corporate and unique things that God is doing with us.
2. We need to be present enough with the Holy Spirit to know what He is saying
  1. Practice not being distracted - "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" Psalm 46:10
  2. Kids, friends, family, coworkers and time - It is important to be present (TESTIMONIES)
3. Being Led by the Spirit is a partnership - It seemed good to us and the Holy Spirit - Acts 15:28 "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:
  1. The Spirit said...
    1. On the move - Acts 8:29-31 <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
    2. Waiting - Acts 13:2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

#### 2. Corporate Time

1. Recognizing that we are a part of something bigger is freeing and powerful
  1. There is no testing... 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
  2. What God was doing with King Joash was much bigger than just his life. - 2 Kings 13:19 <sup>19</sup>So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Aram until you would have <sup>u</sup>destroyed it. But now you shall strike Aram *only* three times."
2. What God is doing in your life has a profound effect on others...we are together in this. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in <sup>u</sup>any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ are <sup>u</sup>ours

in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup>But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; <sup>7</sup>and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are *sharers* of our comfort.

3. **We are truly in it together - 1 Corinthians 12:26** <sup>26</sup>And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

#### 4. What I believe God is doing

1. **Fulfilling Dreams - Preparing us for promotion- (Be absorbed) - 1 Timothy 4:14-15** <sup>14</sup>Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. <sup>15</sup>**Take pains (Be Diligent)** with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.
  1. **Progress** - advancement, furtherance, profit
2. **Growing pains - How we respond to the pain in our lives, will determine what kind of growth we experience.**
3. **Creating greater community through greater transparency**
  1. **Testimonies of how God is working -**
  2. **James 5:13-18** <sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; <sup>15</sup>and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

#### 5. How can we be ready

1. **Being a faithful steward will prepare us for more!**
  1. **Fear leads us to hide and when we hide we don't grow.**
    1. **Mathew 25:18** <sup>18</sup>"But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug a *hole* in the ground and hid his master's money.
2. **Walking in the Spirit and Being present - Practicing be Still**
3. **We can we be ready by managing our hidden or secret life**
  1. **Hanging our with God in the secret place**