

UNDERSTANDING TIME AND SEASONS

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Gen 1:14-19

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

NIV

The sun and moon were created to give light to the earth, to separate day from night, and serve as signs to mark seasons, days and years.

Time, is a temporary interruption in eternity. It is a commodity that can neither be bought nor sold. The only thing you can do with time is use it. If you don't use it, you lose it. If time doesn't work in your favour, it will work against you.

Time and seasons are instruments of measurement, assessment, planning and perfection. Time is an effective tool in the hands of God in planning and executing his plans. In time, everything that has a beginning must have an end. If God, did not create time and seasons, there will be no end to terror, sickness, disease, misfortune, misunderstanding quarrels, poverty and lack, failure and disappointment, imprisonment and failure. In fact, there will be no end to evil.

WHAT UNDERSTANDING OF TIME AND SEASONS WILL DO FOR YOU

- 1.** An understanding of time and seasons will bring rest and destroy fear and anxiety about the problems of life.
- 2.** It will build patience in you because you will be rest assured that everything that has a beginning must have an end.
- 3.** It will help you prepare for the next season of your life.
- 4** It will help you to take advantage of time and seasons of your life and ride in the momentum that it creates.
- 5** It will deliver you from a life of stress.
- 6** It will make a success of your life.

1 Chron 12:32

32 men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do-200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command;

NIV

This tribe was distinguished in Israel because they understood the times. It is a tragedy to live in ignorance of the time that you are living in. An understanding of times will help you to know how to live and fit into Gods agenda for the now. God is a planner, and no planning is done without a time frame. God times everything. Therefore, it is important that you and I understand

the times that we are in per time. This calls for diligence in searching out the Programme and timings of God, especially for our lives.

THE ADVANTAGE OF TIME

Eternity is a timeless zone or realm. Eternity is one full day that never ends. If someone was to suffer in eternity for instance, how long will he suffer? It will be forever. If man lived in eternity, the circumstances we pray that will come to an end will never end.

If the earth was designed to be like heaven – a timeless realm, then, there will be no end to evil and unpleasant circumstances, poverty, sorrow and sickness will never end. Nothing will change. Change is impossible in eternity. Anything in eternity stays on.

Time is a temporary interruption in eternity. It is an instrument in measuring, assessing, planning and perfecting the inhabitants of the earth. In time, change is possible. Anything you don't want, can be eliminated. In time, nothing is permanent – no condition is permanent.

In time, a failure can become a success.

In time, a child can become an adult.

In time, the sick can become healed.

In time, the imprisoned oppressed, afflicted can become delivered and reign in life.

In time, what you cannot see in your today can be seen in your tomorrow. You can take advantage of time and seasons to change your circumstance and put in place what you long to see that is not in existence.

Use time, don't waste it. Redeem the time and don't let it slip through your hands. Make most of every opportunity and don't let your God given opportunities slip through your hands.

Eph 5:16

16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

NIV

Opportunities are tied to the seasons of a man's life. Opportunities are created to move a man to the next season of his life. That is why you must understand the times and seasons of life. Become sensitive to identify and take advantage of opportunities that God creates to move you to your next level. The only time you have is NOW. Use it. Get busy and use it wisely.

19 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT TIME AND SEASONS

1. God created time for measurement, assessment, planning and perfection

Time and seasons enables a man measure and assess his growth, achievements, success, failures, and relationships, set goals and attain them. Change and excellence can be pursued and attained

2. The Life of every man is in phases and seasons

There is a time to be born, there is a time to die. There is a time to be young, there is a time to be old. There is a time to be a student, there is a time to be a graduate. There is a time to start a thing or project, and there is a time to finish it. There is time for sorrow and

pain, there is a time for laughter and celebration. There is a time of lack and want, and there is a time of plenty and abundance. There is a time of failure and disappointment, and there is a time of success and accomplishment. There is a time of poverty and there is a time of prosperity.

What experience you presently have can be changed if you will work hard at it. There is a time to be at the bottom, and there is a time to be at the top. God will move you to your next and better level in Jesus name.

3. There is a time for everything

Eccl 3:1-8

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*
NIV

Learn how to use the right time for the right thing. Don't use the time for sowing for another thing, otherwise you will have nothing to harvest during the harvest season. Be at the right place at the right time. Always be on time. May God grant you the grace to be on time.

Eccl 8:6

6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.
NIV

4. God is faithful to his own timetable

Eccl 3:11

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
NIV

Eccl 8:6

6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.

NIV

No matter how hard we try to make things happen, it will not happen except in his time or in it's time. Everything will happen when God says it will happen. When that time comes God will create the circumstances and events that will lead to its happening. If he requires you to pray or attend a Programme, before it will happen he will stir you up to do all that. If it requires your meeting someone, he will arrange a meeting.

When it is time, the devil and circumstances that stopped you before, will no longer be able to stop you. When it is time, God will show up. And when he shows up, the devil will bow and situation will change. If God has not showed up, wait in faith for that is the purpose of understanding time and seasons. God will always show up in His time.

5. To everything there is a season

To every purpose there is a time. Purposes are fulfilled at the appropriate time. The Lord Jesus knew the time destined for his ministry to begin and for his death. He kept on saying, "*My time has not come*". Once he said, "*This is the hour of darkness*", that same night, he was arrested and later crucified. The purposes of God are fulfilled at the proper time.

In pursuing purpose, there are certain steps that must be taken, and certain things to be done, until they are done, the expected result will not be seen. For every purpose there is a time.

6. Time is divided into three parts: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; Past, Present and future.

What is in your past is past. Yesterday cannot be repeated but can oppress you if you let it. The past can help you to have a better future if you learn the lessons inherent in the past and use it for your own advantage.

Today is the present. And what you make of today determines tomorrow. Today will soon become yesterday. The present will soon drift into the past. Therefore, you must redeem the time and make most of every opportunity.

The future is pregnant with what you feed into it. You programme tomorrow with the values habits, thoughts and deeds of yesterday and today. The decisions of today will determine tomorrow.

What you didn't like yesterday you can stop today. What you can't see today, you can see tomorrow. It is just a matter of time. The beauty of time is that things change with time. To live in eternity the way we are now would have been horrible.

7. All you have is a season

When a man's season comes, things just go well. He labours little and reaps much; the enemy can no longer hinder or stop him. So, if things are going on too well for you and you're succeeding, I want you to know that all you have is a season.

That you are in your season does not mean you know what to do. You need to wait on God to direct your parts in order to flourish well in your season. When a man is in his season, things work out well not because he has the best strategy, works harder than others or prays more than others, it is his season. It will soon be your season. Wait for it.

Many churches and ministries are succeeding because it is their season. Keep working hard in the vineyard as you are expected to by God, He will soon visit you when it is your time. Do not kill yourself or castigate others because things are not working so well for you. It is just a matter of time and your season will come.

8. The only problem with seasons is that they pass

Seasons don't last forever. God created it that way to prove his supremacy, over all. It is time, all things change. Take a look at the churches for instance, one church rises to fame, and remains at the top for some years and suddenly another church or churches rise, and gradually, the fame and boom of that church begins to go down. The name of the new church or churches takes the center stage. All these are displays of times and seasons. As it is in churches, so it is in the life of individuals as far as their pursuit of purpose is concerned.

We all have seasons, and seasons do pass. One man may be poor today, but rich tomorrow. One may be without honour today, but may be full of honour tomorrow. The difference between you and the other person is time and season.

9. Understanding time and season does not mean you should surrender to fate and not work hard

Laziness will only breed poverty but diligent hands bring wealth. (Prov. 10:4). Understanding of time and seasons gives peace, encourage patience, discourage and destroy envy and backbiting, but does not encourage laziness. You must continue to work very hard towards the pursuit of your life goals and assignment without looking back.

Prov 14:23

23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

NIV

Prov 28:19

19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

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10. This world runs on a timetable

Though God prophesied the birth and ministry of Jesus in Genesis chapter 3 when the first couple sinned, God waited thousands of years before sending him. The devil and

demons knows that there is an appointed time for them to be locked up away from the earth.

Rev 20:1-3

20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

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One day when Jesus was ministering, He met two demoniac who cried out and asked him,

“have you come to torment us before the appointed time” (Mt.8:29). The devil knows there is a time to put him away. No matter how men raise a cry against the devil, he will not be put away until that time comes.

Everything God has put in place in the world runs on a timetable.

11. You cannot bind on alter seasons

Gen 8:22

22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

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Job 38:31-32

31 "Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? 32 Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?"

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No man's prayers or enchantments can stop a season from coming to pass. Summer must come when it is time. Winter must come when it is time for winter. The harvest season must come when it is time for harvest. It is a decree God has made and programmed. Nothing can change it. So when it is your season to rise and shine, no one can stop you.

12. Time solves all problems

God created time to solve all the problems that will crop up in a man's life. Every problem needs time to be solved. Patience is a necessary asset in reaping the benefits of time. No condition lasts forever. Never forget that.

13. Time is in the Hands of God

Isa 14:24

24 The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand."

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Isa 14:27

27 For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

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Isa 46:9-11

9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. 11 From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

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Eccl 3:11

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

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The world is God's. The idea, the plan and the reality belongs to God. God created time for his own programme. His plan for the world he created has been timed and programmed by him. No one can thwart the plan of God either for your life or for any other person, group, people or place. He said, I do as I please. It means, no one can change or alter the timing of God. You cannot delay it or fast-forward it.

Heb 2:3

3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him

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No one can delay the plan and purposes of God. If his promise has not come to pass, it simply means it is not time yet. He will show up at the appropriate time. His advice is that we wait for it because it is for an appointed time.

Just as no one can delay the plan of God, no one can thwart the plan of God either. Time is in the hands of God. Your future is in the hands of God.

14. God's time is the best time

God knows what is best. For us and always does what is best. Anytime he shows up is the best time. All his plans and actions are based on justice and righteousness. There is no injustice or wickedness in God. Anytime he shows up is the best time, pursue your dream with zeal, work hard towards your expectations. Always believe he will show up now. If he doesn't show up now, keep believing. Any time he shows up is the best time. He has reasons for everything he does. He knows what you don't know, he sees what you don't see, he understands what you don't understand. It will be dangerous to give you what you are not matured to receive.

God knows the changes that will take place in your life if your heart desire is granted now. So, he knows the right time to grant your request to create a positive change.

God is never too early or late, he is always on time. God's time is the best time.

15. Time is money

Every minute used is money gained, and every minute lost is money lost.

Time is to be used to gain money and fulfillment. Every training, profession, and business is for profit. And profiting as making money and being fulfilled. Time therefore is money. Every minute utilized will move you closer to your dream and goals in life. Don't be a time waster. Use time to your own advantage.

Don't waste your time. Don't waste other people's time. Be time conscious. Be business like in your use of time. Always remember that time is money. Always go straight to the point and when you are through excuse yourself out. Be mature in the use and management of time.

Keep appointments. Be punctual, never keep anybody waiting. Build a reputation for being on time, and finishing on time. Time is money.

16. To waste time is to waste life

The days of man on earth are numbered. We haven't got forever to accomplish our God given assignments. We all have limited time, therefore, we cannot afford to waste time. A time wasted is a life wasted. You and I must aspire to die empty – totally fulfilled, having achieved all we were born to achieve. You must not die with what you were given by God to give this world. Always remember that time will never wait for you. You have to make every minute count. Use time and don't waste time. Time waits for nobody. It is either you use it or you lose it.

17. Ability to manage and take advantage of opportunity is a key factor in attaining success.

18. Time is not a commodity

Time cannot be sold or bought by any body; Time can only be used or wasted. To regain time is an impossible task. It takes the supernatural power of God to gain back what one lost in time through the mercy and favour of God in a special package.

Even then, there can never be another yesterday or a 100% repeat of any of the experience of the past. Once yesterday is past, you put it behind you, and face today, while you look forward to tomorrow with hope.

Don't deceive yourself, you can never buy or sell time.

19. Time is one of the best gift God ever gave man.

Understand it and use it to your advantage. Your financial worth, your relationship, your output will change for the better if you understand the value of time.

HOW TO KNOW THE TIMES THAT WE ARE IN AND WHAT GOD IS ABOUT TO DO

1. God speaks through his word.
2. God speaks through his prophets. He does not do anything except he first reveals it to his prophets (Amos.3:7).
3. Find out what God has spoken and what he is saying right now from the pages of your Bible and from the lips of God's prophets and ministers, especially from those ministers he has given you. God is a speaking God. He still speaks today.
4. Have faith in the word of God and you will be established. Have faith in his prophets and you shall prosper. (2Chron. 20:20)

SIX FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MANAGING YOUR TIME

1. Anything significant in your life will require the investment of time. When you hurry, you will increase the mistakes in your life.
2. Time invested in preparation will repay you a thousand times over.
3. Anytime you invest in restoration of your energy and physical fitness will produce unforgettable benefits to you.
4. Your attitude toward time is revealed every time you make an appointment with someone. Precision communicates your respect for time. Promptness sends a message – "Time matters to me."
5. It is your responsibility to train those around you to respect your time. You do so by respecting their own time as well.
6. Successful negotiations will always require the investment of time. Those who overcome the temptation to hurry ---- always control the transaction.

FIVE TIPS IN MAKING YOUR TIME COUNT

1. Keep a visual list of your goals before you at all times. It may be in your notebook or on the walls of your office. What you see determines what you will pursue.
2. Establish a time limit on every appointment. Precision electrifies any environment
3. Always stay in movement toward your next appointment or goal.
4. Mark those who consistently disrespect your time. If they do not respect your time, your wisdom will not be respected either.
5. Develop the habit of looking at your time often. It educates others regarding the value of your time with them.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **Think positive, speak positive, and live positive, and you will harvest positive results.**
2. **The road to success is full of challenges and obstacles which you must overcome to attain success.**

3. The strength and the power of the devil are based on deception. To give in to deception is to give in to the devil
4. No success is unaccompanied with problems. Opportunities usually come as problems.
5. Programme yourself not to be discouraged when faced with challenges.
6. Laziness will stop the blessings of God in your life. Be diligent.
7. Every smiling is preceded by crying.
8. Give your job or business all it takes, and you will get all it contains. If you invest in it, you will partake of it.
9. Work precedes reward.
10. He that has power with God must have power with men.
11. The larger your heart for God, the larger your destiny in God.
12. Vision is the unfolding of divine plan.
13. Kingdom exploits is tied to validity of vision.
14. A seed of exploit is planted to fulfill a particular vision when it is given.
15. Location brings the unction for success in any business or ministry.
16. There is no security in any office. But there is security in vision if you will stay with your vision.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. God gives you men to keep you focused. The devil sends men to distract you from your focus. Identify the source of the actions and words of the people in your life to know how to relate with each man.
2. Anyone who feeds your weakness is not a worthy friend. Avoid such.
3. Those who help you to kill time are not interested in your future. Keep away from loafers.
4. Unbroken soul-ties are responsible for infidelity in many marriages.
5. Sex outside of marriage is dangerous because sex ties the two souls involved together. And breaking it is not easy. 1 Cor. 6:15-16.
6. The just hates evil and evil men. They don't keep company with the ungodly.
7. Anyone you will not be proud to introduce as your friend is not worthy of a close relationship.
8. Inferiority complex is an enemy of sincerity in relationships.
9. Secrecy destroys trust. Where there is no trust, there can be no true friendship.
10. Friends that you cannot vouch for should be avoided completely.
11. Don't surround yourself with "yes" men only. You need people to tell you the truth, rebuke and correct you when necessary.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. Your mind is your life.
2. Your thoughts give birth to your words, moods, feelings and actions.
3. A man is basically what his thoughts are.
4. You are a sum total of the thoughts that you accommodate in your mind.

5. **Because the mind can be deceived that is why you must know the scripture very well.**
6. **The word of God is the helmet that protects our minds from being taken over by the evil suggestions of the devil.**
7. **Negative thoughts will produce negative words, actions and lifestyle. Positive thoughts will produce positive words, actions and lifestyle.**
8. **The state of your mind determines your ultimate status in life.**
9. **Problems create mental reactions. Negative mental reaction is injurious to man. But, positive mental reaction will create solutions.**
10. **Fear is an enemy and a state of the mind. It is destructive to vision, plans and the health of man.**
11. **All human brain is the same worldwide. Putting it to work is where the problem lies.**
12. **Your mind can become a spring of life or death, depending on how you use it.**