

Times & Seasons

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Purpose Series 12

20th September 2023

Topic: Times and Seasons

Text: Daniel 2:20-21 - *"Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding." (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION

"We are on the journey of purpose and we will get to our destination, which is FULFILLMENT."

There are times and seasons in the journey of life and until you begin an alignment with them, you will always struggle with fulfillment in life. Every living soul is born with a purpose, no one exists in this life as an accident. You must understand the seasons of life in purpose to be able to enter the dimension of fulfillment that you have been predestined to be.

We have gotten to a point where the first season in the journey of purpose is the "*Seasons of Recognition and Discovery*." If you refuse to recognize, there is no way you can determine or discern the purpose of your existence.

"Purpose gives direction. It determines where and all that you do in life including marriage."

It is paramount that you are able to recognize it per times. We began on the principles of recognition and discovery in the previous teaching, let's continue :

4. Check Your Passion, Potential and Giftings

Everyone has a passion and gift. So these questions are important: *What is your potential? What is your gift? What are you passionate about? Have you discovered them?* All these can be a pointer to your purpose. Let's check the scripture

Acts 18: 24-28

"Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly

helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ." (NKJV)

Apollos was a man gifted in eloquence, that is the ability to speak; full of speech. Afterwards, the Bible records that he had a passion for studying the Scripture ("*mighty in the Scriptures*"). Moving on, he was a man of potential ("*had been instructed in the way of the Lord*"). So in Apollos, we saw giftings, passion, and potential. However, it was mentioned that he operated in what has been extinct ("*he knew only the baptism of John*").

Let me tell you, there is a possibility for you to know God yet you are not aware of what He is doing right now. During the COVID period, a lot of churches were shut down and many resolved to house fellowship which was not effective. It was then God gave us the wisdom to find all the means possible to go online and to sustain it because we understood the times.

"One of the things we must learn is knowing when to step into new seasons."

Apollos lacked this knowledge until Aquila and Priscilla without condemning enlightened him. I pray God gives us people like Aquila and Priscilla in our generation. These are people that will sit at the back, and see great giftings and potential without an iota of condemnation or comparison but to bring such into the reality of God. Apollos had giftings and potential which earned him "pulpit" and recognition until he went through a refinement.

"Discover your gifting. Discover your potential. Discover your passion. Never substitute them because you are not noticed."

There is also a place of service in grooming potential. When you give yourself to service, there is a way your potential begins to emerge. If you would discover purpose, check your passion, gifting and potential.

5. Divine Ordination

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (NKJV)

Some people discover their purpose by divine ordination. God said he had made Samson a Nazareth from birth. You must know that God can decide to choose you.

Also previously, I explained that committing yourself to your local church can help you discover purpose. In many teachings, I have said severally how my Pastor and some other people in the church discovered God's calling in my life before I even found out. In Acts 13, Barnabas and a couple of others were set aside by the church in line with the purpose of their lives. Your local church matters a lot. May God give you understanding.

Now there are **FOUR Phases of Discovery**. When you have come to your season of discovery and recognition, you must understand these phases;

1. Discover the God Almighty

Genesis 1:1

" In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. " (NKJV)

Anything you discover without God is useless. So as you chase purpose, the first thing you are called to discover is God. I tell you, your purpose should start with God and end with Him.

"If you have not discovered God, you have not discovered anything."

Daniel 11:32 - *Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. (NKJV)*

The foundation of every exploit is the ability to know God. It was in Jeremiah that I saw that you can boast but if you will, don't boast in your riches, wealth, might or relationship. Your boast should be in knowing God. (Jeremiah 9:23-24). "How much of God do you know?" This is a very serious question that everyone who will fulfil their purpose must understand.

"Men and women that discover and fulfil their purpose, are people that know their God."

Let me add this, Samuel was a man who knew God but his children did not. Likewise, Eli, a prophet yet his children were the very opposite. *Your proximity to a man of God does not guarantee the height of knowledge of God. Know your God!*

It is when you discover God, the manufacturer of purpose, you receive purpose in life.

2. Discover your abilities.

2 Timothy 1:6

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." (NKJV)

What are your abilities? Discover them. After discovering God, the next is your abilities. You can't have the ability to pray and decide to be a person who sings. As a young believer, I had earlier joined the choir but I didn't last because I have the ability to be an intercessor.

You have abilities embedded. **There is something inside you that makes you who you are and it is your responsibility to stir it up.** There is no how your abilities can reflect if you remain seated. You keep doing and working on it until they manifest.

When Moses stood in front of Pharaoh, the Lord said to him, *"What is in your hands?"*. We all have something in our hands because God will not use something outside our hands to help us. We are the ones who always conclude wrongly that those things are not useful. Moses had a rod which through God worked wonders. You are not empty. You see that thing that you commonize is something that is enough to carry you throughout your life.

You have something inside you, stir it up. One of the ways you can stir up what is inside you is by speaking in the Holy Ghost.

"You bury yourself in prayer daily to stir your ability and get into service daily to become."

3. Discover Others.

Others who will walk with you, help you and push your purpose with you. Discover them. ***There are no great people if you are not ready to work with others.*** What births greatness is the ability to manage human beings. You need people, therefore build relationships at every opportunity.

4. Discover Yourself

Identity crisis is the most dangerous thing on earth. Discover who you are.

John 1:22-23

Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD,"" as the prophet Isaiah said." (NKJV)

John the Baptist was asked his identity in the scripture above. In fact, there was a time in the life of Jesus this question was also asked. If you have not discovered who you are, you will live a confused life of imitation. **The best you can be is to be yourself.**

Human beings are unreliable and insatiable so if you live your whole life being a shadow of yourself, you will never become anything in life. Don't because of what people will say fold your hands and not act following your purpose. Know that everyone will give an account of their actions. There are three things I do when people talk: *Am I true to God, myself and the assignments given to me?*

I beg you by God's mercy, focus on God, check yourself and do that which God has assigned you to do. John the Baptist knew his lane in the journey of purpose. Know yourself.

"The reason why you are imitating is that you have not discovered yourself. You must know when imitation is a limitation and when it is a blessing you must know it."

The last deal of these phases is to develop and refine your passion. It is very important.

What is the next season of life?

2. Season of Preparation

After you have discovered the purpose why you are here on earth, you don't jump into it. The first thing you do is to be prepared for it. When purpose comes to people, it is usually with a sense of urgency to act immediately. However, it is not the time to act but the time to sit. This is why you must have a clear understanding of this season. It is the time to be worked upon, not to rush but to sit and look for who will be available to prepare you for the assignment.

This is where learning comes into view. No one becomes a driver without learning from someone even if it is by observation. You can't be proficient in anything in life without undergoing a learning period. So why is it that when it comes to the things of God, we are not patient to learn? Why is it difficult? I wonder what is going on in Christendom that we do not wish to settle under anyone to learn but instead jump into action.

If you want to fulfil your purpose you must learn from a preparer. The act of learning to rise comes from when you become humble. There is a need for us to have someone who put us through this season, a preparer.

Samuel was great with a testimony from God but without Eli who introduced him to the voice of God, he would have missed God.

Please no matter how out of age your preparer is, he or she would forever be your preparer. Eli was old and couldn't see any vision or revelation as compared to Samuel, however, the boy still ran to him. There must always be an Eli in your life.

Exodus 33:11

"So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the Tabernacle." (NKJV)

When God spoke to Moses face to face, Joshua was always present hence it became easy when He took over the mantle because he already knew how God spoke. You need a *Moses*. You need a *Paul* if you must become a *Timothy*. There must be a preparer. If you would be an *Apollos*, you need an *Aquila and Priscilla*. May God give you understanding. You need a preparer and you must be intentional about it.

"There are no great people that are not prepared."

Components of Preparation

1. Nobody is prepared without a preparer

Numbers 11:28

So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!" (NKJV)

One important thing about Joshua is that the Bible records that he is Moses' assistant. So when Moses was not around for rebuking, he stood in his place and did. *If you do not have a 'father' in this journey you can't go far.*

2. Your instructor matters in the journey of purpose and destiny

Don't choose an instructor because of gain, if you do you will not last. There are instructions your instructor will give to you that will be inconvenient but because of that role of over your life, you have to obey. Your instructor gives you instructions in righteousness always. It is possible to have many instructors but please have a father.

1 Corinthians 4:15 - *For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. (NKJV)*

"Instructor matters in the journey of destiny, don't follow a man who doesn't have a destination."

3. Your obedience must be prompt when you are following a preparer

The only problem you can have with a preparer/instructor in the school of purpose is being offended. **Avoid offence against them no matter how difficult, or terrible it is.** This is the way we rise.

Prayer: Lord, order my steps to my preparer.