

EMBRACING DIVINE TIMES AND SEASONS

Life is a series of moments and we should appreciate that every day is different. We must be careful not to go faster than God because he can leave us to our own devices. In life we should embrace and give thanks in every moment that we are presented with because everything works out for good:

1 Thes 5:8-Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is Gods will for you in Christ Jesus.

We should not live in denial when our circumstances change because that can create a situation of desperation in our lives. It therefore calls upon us to know that God is never taken by surprise by what happens in our lives, he knows and he's on top of everything that transpires in our lives. Having said that it shouldn't astonish us when things don't follow our best laid plans- even the weather these days is unpredictable.

Even king Solomon acknowledged this fact in writing Ecclesiastes 3:1-11.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

A time to be born and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal,

A time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

A time to search and a time to give up,

A time to keep and a time to throw away,

A time to tear and a time to mend,

A time to be silent and a time to speak,

A time to love and a time to hate,

A time for war and a time for peace. What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Why do we need to embrace defined times

1. From the above excerpt, there are set times for everything and it's authored by God. Nothing happens without his express authority. When a baby is in the womb, it's in a comfort zone. But after a set time of nine months the mother goes into labor and the baby is born. The baby cries because of change of location but the mother rejoices because she was expecting the baby.

In the just concluded elections there are those who are rejoicing because their candidate of choice carried the day, but there are those who are hurt that things did not go as planned. While it is understandable to feel loss, accepting the defeat, taking stock and moving forward creates an attitude of a winner- that another day will come for you to try again and elect your preferred candidate. While most people wallow in sorrow, demanding justice to be done, God is never worried who won the elections.

Daniel 2:21-He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.

Someone aptly said, the match called peace vs justice was never meant to be played on earth.

2. It is beneficial for us to understand the times we are living in because God has made everything beautiful in his own time. David had been anointed by God to be king but for many years he waited foreign lands and in caves battling his enemies. But when the time came:

1 chronicles 12:27- Now Jehoiada was the leader of the house of Aaron, and with him were 3,700, also Zadok, a young man mighty of valor, and of his father's house twenty-two captains. Of the sons of Benjamin, Saul's kinsmen, 3,000; for until now the greatest part of them had kept their allegiance to the house of Saul. Of the sons of Ephraim 20,800, mighty men of valor, famous men in their fathers' households. Of the half-tribe of Manasseh 18,000, who were designated by name to come and make David king. (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.)

While every tribe assembled armies in readiness for battle to come install David as king, only the men of Issachar understood the times. They showed up with only 200 chiefs! Because they knew it was time for David to be king. If we understand the times and seasons in our lives, we will know what to do and what not to do.

How can we embrace set times and seasons

1. Always remember that times and seasons belong to God. If you don't understand the times you're in, you'll always go through frustrations trying to make things happen. At the time of Christ's birth, the children of Israel were waiting for a political messiah to free them from the Roman oppression. So the disciples thought Jesus was that political figure:

Acts 1:6 -So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

They had no clue the season they were in, and in their frustration they kept asking Jesus about earthly kingdoms and their welfare. But Jesus told them the reason he had come:

Acts 1:7-8-Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and

you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

He did not come to set them free from the roman rule, but from sin. They were to be witnesses even to their oppressors!

Christ's answer tells us a different story from his disciple's expectation. It tells us to align ourselves with God's plan and not our own and whatever plans he has which is good and not evil will unfold in our lives.

2. God means well for us, therefore we should enjoy our present stations whatever it might be. We might be going through pressure but God has everything in his sights.

Jeremiah 29:4-11-Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, 'Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. 'Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.' "For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. 'For they prophesy falsely to you in my name; I have not sent them,' declares the LORD.

"For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill my good word to you, to bring you back to this place. 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

3. Do not be stuck in past experiences- we should not be stuck in the past experiences because that can limit God to move in our present. The bible admonishes us to forget the former things (successes, triumphs and disappointments) for God is going to do a new thing. Sometimes celebrating our little successes hinders the move of God, because it blinds our growth. The same is true with failure. When we go into a pity party we deny the move of God in our lives because he doesn't live in our past but our future. If you see the greater scheme of things, you cannot think to box Gods power in our lives.
4. Desist from leaning on your own understanding. We should not think we know more than God concerning a particular situation. No one can know more than God to instruct him. Yes, you should thank God for your expertise but you should seek more of God's anointing because most times in our own thinking we can move away from God's divine plan for us.
5. God changes times and seasons. If God has chosen to raise a king, no human hand can stop it. No one can know his mind but on set times he can raise a king and lower another.

Daniel 2:21-"It is He who changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.

6. We should submit to God's will because he has his own way of doing things. His will must be done on earth. In the garden of gethsemane when Jesus prayed:

Matthew 26:36-39-Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with me."

And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will, but your will be done."

Even Jesus being deity, submitted to the authority of his father in recognizing that God's will on the earth is sacrosanct. Your past may be ugly, but with God the past is the past. Perceive that God is doing a new thing in the midst of the storms you are facing.

May we all embrace the times God is permitting in our lives because he is our maker and he knows each one of us.