

".....*But take heart; I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33).
Be an *Overcomer* just like He is an *Overcomer*!

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GOD'S APPOINTED TIME

GALATIANS 4.4; JOHN 2.1-4; 1 CHRONICLES 29.2-14

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Galatians 4:4 –

“But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law”

In the **Fullness of time, in His time**, God sent forth His Son. There is a beautiful song that goes like this - *He makes all things beautiful in His time*. It is difficult to sing that song, when we are going through that challenge. The waiting time is a challenge for most of us. Because waiting would have been fun, if we had known, what we are waiting for. Waiting would be fun, if we knew the one whom we were waiting for. But waiting is not fun when we do not know the one for whom we are waiting. Therefore when the Lord asks us to wait on the Lord or wait for His time, we are unable to wait, or understand what God is doing, because we do not know Him.

If we study the word ‘time’, we find that **time is always bound around God**. God Himself is eternity. **God says that He is the alpha and the omega**, that is, He is the beginning and the ending. The moment you take Him out, the beginning and the ending are out of the world. In fact you are taking the only one who knows the beginning and the ending.

Bible says that the foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of man. All who think rationally are not trying to disprove God. They give rise to postulates and come to conclusions, only to be disproved later on. We think science is against God. In fact scientists think that God is against rational thinking. God is not against science; rather God’s signature is all over science. But not all the conclusions in science are of God. We believe many things to be true until God opens up a new dimension of understanding Him, knowing Him, loving Him and walking with Him.

If we take God away from the picture, then time is taken away from the picture. **If we take God away from anything, then it becomes valueless.** If we take away God from us, then our entire purpose of living becomes valueless. There is no cause for living, if our purpose of living becomes valueless. If there is no cause for living or if God is taken out of our lives, then it can be left open for people's interpretation.

But what is interesting about God is that **it is God who set the time in place. The alpha and the omega, or the beginning and the ending, was God's idea.** If anything was beginning, that was God's idea. If anything was ending, that was God's idea. God is the beginning and the ending. He is not bound by time.

In **John 2**, at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, Mary goes and tells Jesus that the wine is over. But Jesus replies that **His time** had not yet come. Jesus operated the principles of living carefully by knowing the time that He was living in.

Even if we get to touch Jesus, we many not accept Him. But **God has to open our eyes for us to believe that He is the Messiah. Anyone who comes to God must come believing.** Many ask the question why Jesus is not meeting with everybody. The only way Jesus could be with everyone, everywhere, at anytime is if He came as the Holy Spirit. So if we need to relate to the Holy Spirit, we need to relate to Him as a spirit person. You are a spirit. Hence it is mentioned in **John 4:24** that all worshipers are to worship God in spirit.

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24 NASB).

It is in the spirit dimension that we connect to God and understand the fullness of God. We can understand eternity only in the spirit. We can never understand eternity in the natural. It is because eternity is outside the confines of time. The first thing God did in creation was that He created light and He separated light from the darkness and set time. **He set time in place.** So when God said that He is the alpha and the omega, there was no better way to define Himself in chronology, other than to say that He is the beginning and the ending. Time has a lot to do with the point of reference, which is, God. So when God says that it is time, He is saying about an event that happened at a particular point, at a particular place, at a particular time. Then He put the seasons in place. The first creation of God was a miracle. From then on, He connected the everyday miraculous to time. That is why it is written in **Psalms 139:14** that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalms 139:14

*I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.*

If we do not connect to time, we would miss out God's strategies here on earth. If we do not refer to time, we would miss out the plans and call of God. Many people mess up their lives because they do not realize the times of God in their lives. **If we do not understand the time, we will not understand how to take decisions according to the will of God for that season for that part of our lives.** We need to understand at what time in life we need to get into a relationship. Everything that is done out of time can cause a damage. As a Christian, God wants us to be extremely sensitive to the time that we are living in. God wants us to be sensitive to where He has placed us and how he has placed us. The Bible asks us to redeem the time because the days are evil. Make sure how you are spending your time and that you are planning your days carefully.

In Greek, there are two words used for time, **chronos** and **kairos**. **Chronos** is the word used for **literal time**, while **kairos** is used for **God's appointed time**. Many people live in the chronos and fail to recognize the kairos. They do not recognize the days of God's visitation.

In **Mathew 23:37-39**, Jesus looks at Jerusalem and says, "*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'*". They did not recognize the time of their visitation. We need to recognize the time of our visitation.

Psalm 90:12 -

"So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom".

Every decision we make is based on assessing the time we have in life. But God is calling every believer to be sensitive to God's appointed time. People who are not sensitive to their relationship with God will struggle in their sensitivity to God's purpose in their lives.

How do we know about God's purpose in our lives?

Knowing God's purpose in our lives is based primarily on our relationship with God. Unless we have a relationship with God, we will never realize the purpose of our lives. **We redeem time by setting right our relationship with the One who has set eternity in our hearts.**

Mathew 7:21 – *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”*

So Jesus was not pinning our purpose of life with what we did, but with the personal relationship we have with God. **Relationship is hard work and it will cost time.**

When we do something for God, the devil will do everything to discourage us. Hence we need to be prepared for that time. The most powerful years in a man’s life is between the age of forty and seventy. The years before forty prepare him for his life after forty. Some people want the results of the latter years in the early years. But only a fool would look for harvest in the sowing time. The Bible says that there are seasons. There is a seed time and a harvest time in every phase of our lives. Many of us harvest in the sowing time. When we understand the time, we prepare for the time so that we do not lose time. In marriage, people usually spend little time preparing for what is to come. As a church, we need to understand what time we are in. War time is very different from the peace time. **None prepares for war during the war, but prepares for it before the war.** They prepare in such a way expecting that one day war will come. In the same way, you need not bind the devil when the devil is binding you. **We prepare for it in the peace time by thinking and meditating on the scripture.** We prepare for the bad time in the good time. **We prepare in the *chronos* for the *kairos*.** We prepare in the *chronos* knowing that *kairos* is coming. **We prepare for the appointed time.** God has connected fruitfulness to time, so there is a seed time and a harvest time. In seed time, it would be us sacrificing and we feel that whatever is left with us also needs to be given away. God has blessed all of us with wealth. God wants us to set aside some part of our wealth as seed. If we begin to eat the seed, then we will have nothing to sow for us to have another harvest. Giving is also sowing. Even unbelievers know the power of giving. Whether wicked or righteous, godly principles have rewards.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 -

“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven –

*A time to give birth and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.
A time to kill and a time to heal;
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;*

*A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.
A time to search and a time to give up as lost;
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;
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.”*

Everything under sun has a time. When that time is gone, we cannot replace it. We cannot get back the time we have lost. But God can give us grace to spend the rest of our years wisely. So God wants us to be very conscious of time. Even the devil understands time.

Luke 4:13 –

“When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

He understands the time to attack and the time to stay away. He understands the time to cause trouble. But that is the time when we need to be focused.

Noah took hundred years to build the ark. It took hundred years because the people then doubted the word of God. They were drinking and giving away in marriage until the flood came. **Noah entered the ark in the kairos time.**

People believe that Jesus is coming soon because Jesus said that He was coming soon. But in the Bible, it is written that He is going to take time in His coming. The parables Jesus says in **Mathew 24 and 25** are concerning the end times.

Mathew 25:5 –

“Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep”

Mathew 25:13 –

“Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour”

According to the **parable of the ten virgins in Mathew 25**, the bridegroom delayed in His coming and he came at midnight or at the last hour. Jesus did not tell the time but He told the signs of His coming, that there would be hearing of wars, rumours of wars etc even at the beginning of the birth time.

According to the **parable of the talents in Mathew 25**, when the master took a long time to return, the slave who had one talent hid the talent the master gave. The Bible

says that He is going to come at a time when we do not know. So we need to prepare for His coming. **We prepare by having a relationship with Him.**

Haggai built the temple, **David's son Solomon** built the temple and **Nehemiah** restored the walls. **They did these because they sensed that it was God's time.** We do not get into any project unless we sense that it is God's time.

David prays a beautiful prayer before he builds the temple of God. David, being the king emptied out his personal treasury to build the temple. Then he calls out the nation to give.

1 Chronicles 29: 2-3

"Now with all my ability I have provided for the house of my God the gold for the things of gold, and the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, onyx stones and inlaid stones, stones of antimony and stones of various colors, and all kinds of precious stones and alabaster in abundance. Moreover, in my delight in the house of my God, the treasure I have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, over and above all that I have already provided for the holy temple, (1 Chronicles 29:2, 3 NASB).

V:6 *Then the rulers of the fathers' households, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with the overseers over the king's work, offered willingly; (1 Chronicles 29:6 NASB)*

They made free will offerings and people rejoiced over it.

V:9 *Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly. (1 Chronicles 29:9 NASB).*

David blessed the Lord before the whole assembly, praising and thanking God. **V:10-13.**

After emptying his treasury David says,

V:14 *"But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. (1 Chronicles 29:14 NASB)*

Mordecai tells Esther that it was for such a time that she had been placed in the palace. God places people in certain positions to influence some lives in those places. His judgement has a time.

Colossians 4:5 –

“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 –

“Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labour pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.”

Let us prepare in the *chronos* for the *kairos*.

-Benja Paul