

Starting A New Season

A guide to targeted prayers



'To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:' Ecclesiastes 3:1

God deals with us in seasons, and He has allocated seasons to the various assignments we will have throughout our life's journey. Different seasons open us up to new levels in various areas of our lives, with one season feeding into another. This means that when a new season comes up, it automatically means an old season is about to end.

There are four critical things we need to note about new seasons. One is that God doesn't follow a January to December calendar, so we need to be spiritually sensitive to when a new season is about to start. Two is that the enemy always knows when we should be stepping into a new season even if we don't, and he will use that knowledge to hinder us if we don't discern him at work. Three is that every new season has specific requirements for us to successfully complete it and transit to a new season. Four is that God makes specific enablement available to us to maximize the season, but we must identify this enablement in order to take full advantage and complete the season successfully.

This series we are looking at the how to start a new season, partnering with the Holy Spirit in the place of prayer. Our prayer is that as we engage with this series, the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to the seasons of our life and guide us along the best pathway.



Day 1

The Issachar Perspective

“of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...” I Chronicles 12:32

God is always doing something and because His ways are not our ways, His calendar doesn't follow a human model. So while we may celebrate our birthdays once a year, it's possible to have multiple seasons in a calendar year based on what God's agenda is. Many times we give God a timer that doesn't align with His calendar and then get frustrated when we don't see certain outcomes within the timeline we have defined for ourselves. This means we need to be able to identify the indicators of seasons so we can identify changes.

“He answered and said to them ... You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.” Matthew 16:3

When a new season is about to start, there's always heightened spiritual activity and we may see that the Holy Spirit starts nudging us to be more spiritually alert and active in the place of prayer and focused in spending time with God. This is because a new season has to be discerned spiritually. What set the Issacharites apart was their ability to discern the times. Because they understood what was happening, they knew what to do. When we see an increase in the intensity of the promptings of the Holy Spirit then that's a sign that something is going on and it's important we respond accurately.

Hunger is another factor: We begin to realise that we have a desire for more out of life. This isn't about desiring material things, but a feeling that there is more we can be in God. By giving room to this hunger, we create room for the Holy Spirit to move in us and start leading us in the direction of the new.

Once we have discerned the season, the second part is knowing what to do. And the way to know this is through prayer. From the next devotional we will go into specific targeted prayers for new seasons because there is a way to prepare.

Prayer: Lord make me like the sons of Issachar, give me understanding of the seasons of my life. Help me discern when a new season is about to start so I can prepare effectively.

Day 2

Old vs New

'Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.' Psalms 139:23-24

Many times we get excited about a new season but don't acknowledge that each season has its specific focus and requirements which means we shouldn't assume that things will be business as usual. As we start a new season, there are certain things that were okay before that will no longer be permissible. There are things to let go of (no matter how legitimate) in order to focus squarely on the new. But we won't know what these are if we don't engage the Holy Spirit in prayer.

"How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.' Luke 19:42 NLT

Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because they could not understand that He was actually the source of peace to them. The people were looking for a military ruler that would deliver them from the rulership of Rome, but Jesus was bring deliverance to all mankind. This tells us that we may not always recognize the assignments, relationships, location, instructions etc. that will give us peace in the new season as they may not look like what we have construed in our minds. Wisdom dictates that we submit to God's plan and process even if we may have a picture in our minds of what we want the season to look like. Discernment and obedience are really critical to successfully navigating a new season.

Prayer: Lord show me the things that must change in my life in the next season. I do not want to carry the baggage and assumptions of yesterday into tomorrow. Show me the things I need to let go of and the things to take hold of. Grant me heightened perception and discernment so the things meant for my peace will not be hidden from my eyes. And I ask also for the grace to obey Your instructions.

Day 3

Divine Influence

“There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.”
Proverbs 19:21

There are always three competing agendas in anyone’s life. We have our own agenda for what we would like to see happen in our lives which could be formed by family or society’s expectations of us or things we have desired for ourselves. The devil has an agenda and will do everything possible to bring his plans to bear in our lives if we don’t counter him and his agents. God also has His plan for our lives, which was conceived before we were born. Whose agenda do we choose?

“For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will.” John 6:38 NLT

Jesus recognised He had His own will, yet He consciously chose to set His will aside and do God’s will. Perhaps we have already started putting systems and structure in place to bring our plans to life over the next six months. Likewise, we can make a similar decision and choose to pursue God’s will rather than our own, trusting that His plan is the best option.

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” Jeremiah 10:23

As we start choosing God’s plan, we bring ourselves under His influence so He can direct our steps daily. Important we understand that there’s never a vacuum so if we don’t choose God’s way, by default we bring ourselves under other influence. So a critical thing we must pray for is divine influence over our decision making process and the decisions made concerning us so we don’t step out of alignment with God’s will for the season.

Prayer: Father I ask that You give me complete knowledge of Your will for my life this season, with all the spiritual wisdom and understanding that I will require for the assignment You have for me. I bring myself, my family and all that concerns me under the divine influence of the Holy Spirit and I ask for Your guidance Holy Spirit so I my life will be centred in the will of God. Holy Spirit please take over every decision I take and every decision taken over me so that everything comes into alignment with Your agenda.



Day 4

Identifying Hindrances

“For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”
I Corinthians 16:9

While the enemy may not know exactly what God has planned, the enemy knows when a new season is about start in a person’s life because in the spiritual realm there’s always an increase in angelic activity around the start of a new season. Thus he positions to create various forms of hinderances to us entering the season. This means new seasons are periods that require a high level of sensitivity.

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

A common strategy is offence and we may find that suddenly we are being misunderstood or finding it hard to get along with people and the objective is simply to use offence as a tool to disqualify us. Another strategy is old temptations resurrecting seemingly from out of nowhere. People or situations from the past show up to try and make us fall for old habits. Sickness is another tool, and the intention is to keep us preoccupied with what’s going on with our bodies so we neglect our spirit. The strategies are wide and diverse, so again sensitive and discernment is required.

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”
Romans 8:37

The enemy will definitely try and hinder us so we get frustrated, lose focus or disqualify ourselves so we miss the season. Let’s not assume new seasons will come without adversaries. The larger the opportunity for the season, the greater the contention. But we shouldn’t be afraid, we already have the victory.

Prayer: Lord thank You for reminding me that there’s an enemy focused on ensuring I don’t step into all You have for me. Thank You for the gift of sensitivity, wisdom and discernment so I don’t fall into the traps. I bring every agenda of the enemy to nothing in the name of Jesus and declare that I will not be robbed of my divine entitlement and all the new season has been designed to make available to me.

Day 5

Activation Agents

“... you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the place of worship. They will be playing a harp, a tambourine, a flute, and a lyre, and they will be prophesying. At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person.” 1 Samuel 10:5-6 NLT

When Samuel anointed Saul as king over Israel, one of the things that Samuel said would happen is that Saul would come across a specific group of men that would cause him to change. When God wants to do something in us, He often works through people. Whatever it is that we are to achieve or become in the new season, God will connect us to a person or people whose presence in our lives is designed to bring about the right change and usher us into the new reality.

“Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you.” 1 Timothy 4:14 NLT

Throughout the Bible we see how God uses people to help others change and activate His call upon their lives. David was just a young boy tending sheep until Samuel anointed him. The mighty men of Israel were once the rejects of the society until they met David. Joshua was able to lead Israel into Canaan because of Moses' impact on his life. Timothy was successful in ministry because of the mentorship of Apostle Paul. The presence of the right people always makes a difference.

Similarly, when the enemy wants to destroy someone he also sends wrong influences to derail, distract the person. That's why we're called to test every spirit so we don't inadvertently give room to the enemy in our lives. We also need to request that the Lord opens our eyes to see the people we should be connected to for the activation of His call upon our lives.

Prayer: Lord please connect me to the person/people that will cause the right change in my life. Network our steps so we encounter one another and help me recognise those carrying something for my new season.

Day 6

Mental Strongholds

'We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.' 2 Corinthians 10:5

A major factor that will determine if we walk fully in all a new season holds for us is our mindset. We cannot move beyond the boundaries of our mind. This is why both God and the enemy target our thoughts because our thoughts ultimately shape our reality. All the activities of the enemy are designed to impact the way we think. As such the rebellious thoughts in our minds are not necessarily thoughts of sin, rather they are the thoughts that do not align with what God has said concerning us.

'I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.' Psalms 138:2

Perhaps God has given a word of expansion and fruitfulness, but our minds are locked into our experience, qualifications, and bank balance and consequently we don't really believe the word is for us. Or could it be we have a word of divine health yet all the medical reports point to the opposite? The enemy always tries to keep us locked in on the physical facts, while God wants us to lock into His truth, because His truth alone will stand. God watches over His word to perform it (Jer 1:12) – when this becomes truth in our hearts, we will treat our time spent in the word differently.

'But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.'
Psalms 1:2

How then do we move forward? By being conscious of our thoughts and intentionally focusing on the word of God. Because His word is a life-giving spirit, the more we expose ourselves to it, the more it cleanses, transforms and re-shapes our thought processes, edging out old thought patterns and ultimately transforming our lives.

Prayer: Lord, I understand that my mind is the battlefield and I willingly submit every thought to the authority of Christ. Help me put the right safeguards in place to protect my mind. I ask for the grace to spend quality time in Your word so it can re-shape me as I walk in the fullness of all You have for me in the new season.

Day 7

Take Action

'Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.' Isaiah 54:2-3

Once we have discerned the new season, received direction, dealt with the things that hinder we must take steps of faith. With every new season comes an assignment and that assignment must be executed in faith. The scripture above gives us a summary of the steps we must take in a new season.

The new season isn't for us alone, it's to establish the authority and dominion of God in an ever-expanding field. Enlarge the place of our tent speaks to expanding our mindsets – being willing to accommodate the changes and processes required to be and do more. Stretch out the curtains of our dwellings speaking to stretching ourselves spiritually – if we were spending 10mins with God, increasing that time to 20mins for example – as the old spiritual practices will not be sufficient to cover the new.

As we lengthen our chords we take physical actions to go beyond where we were before – is it starting a new business, course, relocating – whatever it may be for us, it comes down to how God would have us expand. Strengthening our stakes speaks to establishing the good foundations laid – that we have moved to a new level doesn't mean we need to throw out old experiences, rather they are to act as a foundation for us to build upon. Making desolate cities inhabited speaks to the problems we are to solve – our new season must lead to a new level of impact and expansion of God's kingdom in our allocated sphere of influence. Let's make this verse our prayer so it is manifested as a reality in our lives.

Prayer: Lord help me enlarge my mindset, deliver me from the limitations of small thinking. Deliver me from the restrictions others have placed upon me and help me look to You alone, the God of unlimited possibilities. Strengthen me in my inner man so I can increase in my place of spiritual maturity and authority. Grant me discernment to see what areas need to grow and help me as I push in these areas. Show me the problems I am to solve in this season that men may see these works and give all the glory to You. Let this season usher me into a newer level and dimension in You so that I will fully represent You effectively.

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