



Maximizing The

POWER OF TIME



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

For many of us, our use of time is something we downplay to our disadvantage. God is very particular about time because He has locked up destinies and purpose in time and seasons. This means that there is a fixed time given for every purpose of God that's to be carried out here on earth, whether we realize it or not. Armed with this insight, we see that God created time to be used to our advantage. However, when we don't realize the strategic importance of time, we will misuse it and then start playing catch-up on things we should have walked in to gracefully.

This series we are looking at 7 ways to make time a strategic ally on our journey of fulfilling purpose.

We pray as we go through this series the Holy Spirit will minister to you specifically and show you the strategies you need to utilize for yourself.



Day 1 Times & Seasons

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

Life is made up of seasons which are periods of time within which certain things are meant to happen. In the natural, most parts of the world have 4 major weather seasons with each season being sequential and preparatory for the next. This is also what happens in the spirit. There are periods of time allotted to us to go through certain encounters in order to prepare us for the next season of our lives. God is very process oriented and if we do not take advantage of the encounters and lessons of a season, we will not be able to move to the next season of our lives. Not because God doesn't love us, but because we're not prepared for it.

“Jesus replied, “Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime.” John 7:6

In His wisdom, God has assigned the fulfilment of purpose to defined periods of time. Which means there are specific activities we should be involved in per time. Once we understand this, we will start engaging time very differently as we connect time spent to fulfilment of purpose. Jesus understood this so He was very focused on what He was supposed to do at each point in time and was always accurate. How did He achieve this?

“I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.” John 5:30

“Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.” Mark 1:35

We can't know how to manage time and purpose well without engaging the owner of time and our purpose. Jesus knew this very well and didn't consider doing anything without getting God's go ahead. He spent significant amounts of time in prayer and fasting, not to be famous or get things, but to ensure He was always in perfect alignment with what God wanted done at each point in time. The same principle applies to us if we want to align with God's plan, we have to be intimately connected to the owner of the plan so we can accurately discern what He's saying to us per time.

Prayer: Lord help me as I make intimacy with You my priority



Day 2

Purpose & Eternity

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.” Jeremiah 1:5

Purpose for a believer doesn't start when we get to a particular age. As far as God is concerned His purpose for our lives was developed before we were even born. Which means everyone born into time came with a God-given assignment already “hard coded” into our spirit. It is therefore our responsibility to engage God to open the code so we can walk fully in the reason for which we were born in the first place.

“Known to God from eternity are all His works.” Acts 15:18

God's perspective is always global and trans-generational and yet He has a unique purpose for each individual, nation and generation. God called Abraham the father of many nations (Gen 17:4), though there was only one child of promise Isaac. Isaac had two children but it was through Jacob that the nation of Israel and the millions of people to inhabit the nation would be established (Gen 35:11). This tells us that whatever purpose we are seeking to fulfill now is part of a plan that had been put in place long before we ever touched the earth.

“The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” Psalms 32:8 NLT

God isn't scratching His head wondering to do with us, neither is it when we come to Him that He finds something for us to do. The plan was in place before we were born. Because He also gave us free will, we can choose not to walk in the path He set for us and follow our own purpose for our lives. Many times what we're really doing is asking God to bless our plans, without ever asking Him if they align with His plans for us. In engaging the Holy Spirit, we need to move from focusing solely on what we want from God to finding out what God wants for and from us. It's in fulfilling His purpose for our lives that we find favour, grace, protection and everything we need to be all He created us to be.

Prayer: Lord I recognise that You had a plan for me even before I was born. I ask for grace to download Your blueprint for my life so I live fully in the best pathway for my life.



Day 3 Vision and Time

'Where there is no vision [no revelation of God and His word], the people are unrestrained...' Proverbs 29:18

There is a saying that goes, "If you don't know where you are going then any road will get you there." When we don't have a clear vision of who we are and what we are to do then anything goes. We won't have any constraints on what should or shouldn't be done per time, and neither will we be able to clearly discern what is an opportunity from God to fulfil purpose and what is a distraction orchestrated by the enemy.

'Then I said, 'Look, I have come to do your will, O God— as is written about me in the Scriptures.'" Hebrews 10:7

Because Jesus knew why He was on earth and the limited time He had, He was always clear on what He was meant to do per time. He didn't allow Himself to be distracted either by people or circumstances but remained focused on the task at hand. The reason most of us may not be using time well is because we are yet to find out what has been written concerning us. God in His love, wisdom and grace doesn't just tell us what to do, but how to go about it, so we can tell if we are in alignment or have derailed.

'...We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.' Colossians 1:9-10

The best way to find out what God would have us do is to ask Him. He is ready to answer us as we honestly seek to know who we are in Him and to give us the spiritual intelligence required to work it out. When we know His will then we can quickly re-align when off track and put the necessary structures around ourselves to keep us in constant productive communion with Him.

Prayer: Lord show me what is written concerning me in the books in heaven, give me complete knowledge of Your will

Day 4

Appointments and Distractions

'A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.' Ecclesiastes 3:2

God is so precision oriented, He has a specific time frame allocated to not just what we are to do and by when, but also the time frame within which we are to do it. God works within the context of time to enable us fulfil the divine mandates He had for us even before time began within a given expiry date for it all to be completed.

'And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment' Hebrews 9:27

'And He has ... determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings' Acts 17:26

Given this backdrop, it means if run behind on one area, there will be an impact on achieving the future plans and if we miss the pre-appointed time for certain things, getting that opportunity back isn't guaranteed. There is grace assigned to a season for the completion of specific assignments, so even if we are able to do certain things out of season, what should have been easy now becomes difficult. Consequently, whenever we have a nudging from the Holy Spirit to do something, it's critical to respond as we may not be able to fully assess the impact of that obedience or disobedience on the timing of other divine appointments.

'Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.' Psalms 119:37

The main thing that stops us from doing the right thing at the right time can be summed up in one word – distractions. The things we give attention to that don't require it. These may not necessarily be bad things they just don't add to the fulfilment of our purpose. Everyone is different so the question we each need to ask ourselves is: "What are the key distractions in my life and how do I overcome them?" If we don't address this, then we're at great risk of running behind schedule on our appointed seasons and ultimately running out of time to fulfil God's plan for our lives.

Prayer: Lord show me the things that I have allowed to distract me and please help me as I work to overcome them.

Day 5

Time and Purpose

'One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there. Terah lived for 205 years and died while still in Haran.' Genesis 11:31-32

God's plans are always wide reaching and trans-generational – whatever we see is just a glimpse of a much bigger picture. This also means that what we do or leave undone impacts not just us but also the generations to come. Terah (Abram's father) was headed to Canaan, but for whatever reason, he didn't complete the journey. Even though he lived to what would have been considered a ripe old age, he died without completing his journey, leaving Abram with the responsibility to finish what his father had started (Genesis 12 onwards).

There's never any gap in God's plan as it will always be fulfilled. However, because we have a finite time to complete our assignments and our journey here on earth, it means that if we are not mindful of how we use time and obey God's instructions, we may exit not completing what we were sent here to do, regardless of how long we may live.

'When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.' John 19:30

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.' 2 Timothy 4:7

This means there may be some people who may not live long in terms of the number of years they are physically on earth, but because they completed their assignment within their allotted time, it was time to go back home. This is not to say everyone who exits early has necessarily completed their assignment. The intent is for us to recognize that God looks at life in terms of completion of assignment rather than biological longevity. Jesus died early in his 30s but finished his assignment. Apostle Paul is estimated to have died in his 60s but he also finished his assignment. It's not about the longevity but the quality of life by God's standards and expectations.

Prayer: Lord, I ask for the grace to fulfil my purpose within the time allotted to me

Day 6 The Time Fallacy

“A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.”
Proverbs 24:33-34

God designed sleep and rest as a means for our bodies to renew and cells regenerate so we are refreshed and effective. However, when we take this to the extreme and sleep beyond what our bodies need or take those extra unwarranted breaks, then we’re opening the door for being both spiritually and physically unproductive. We all get 24 hours a day, no more no less, so how we redeem the time we have is important such that we don’t let hours in the day pass by because we are distracted and then later become overwhelmed because we left so many things undone.

“Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.” Psalms 90:12

This is an incredibly powerful prayer when we understand that everything around us is controlled by the framework of time. We often think we have more time available than we really do and underestimate how much needs to be accomplished within that time. As a result, we may be pressing pause at a time we should be pushing to finish a task because another task is right round the corner. Wisdom is understanding what needs to be done, by whom and by when and having the discipline to do it.

“A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.” Proverbs 25:28

Without self-control and diligent tracking of what we’re doing with every hour of the day, we may come to the end of a day without being able to define what specific things we achieved that day. Where there’s no self-control, all our boundaries are open to see, hear anything and go anywhere at any time without factoring a critical question: what is the purpose of this activity? Yes, God will give grace and divine enablement, but make no mistake, fulfilling purpose requires consistent hard work on our part. For us to be effective, we need to have a lot of self-discipline so we can control what we permit to come into our space and what we do with the gift of time.

Prayer: Teach me to number my days, hours and minutes so I can be intentional about what I do with time.

Day 7 Redeeming Time

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”
Galatians 6:7

A principle in life is the law of sowing and reaping. A significant proportion of whatever we see in our lives now is a direct result of what we sowed earlier. Did we invest in drawing close to God? We will see it in our intimacy with Him and how we respond to today's challenges. Do we have a good relationship with friends/family? It's because of how we invested in nurturing those relationships. Do we have some form of financial savings available to draw on for emergencies? It's because we delayed gratification and intentionally set funds aside. The opposite is also true. This means that we're constantly creating our future by the things we're doing today. If we do not like what today looks like, we need to assess where we missed it and sow different seeds.

“redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5:16-17

Fulfilment of purpose comes from obeying God's instructions consistently not just when we believe we have received what seems like a big instruction. The Bible tells us clearly that we must always understand what God's will for us is per time so we can walk within the context of His will. Everyday has an assignment either from God or the enemy so we must be extremely intentional about the choices we make with each day we're given. The enemy will always look for ways to distract us because he knows that if he steals our time, he's stolen our ability to fulfil our assignment at the right time.

“So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should...” 1 Corinthians 9:26-27

Paul talks about running with purpose in every step and for him to do this he had to discipline himself a lot. Likewise, if we want to achieve results in every area of life, we must become very intentional about time; knowing that we will only get 24hrs a day, that there's a fixed time allotted to each assignment and that we also have a fixed time allotted to be on this side of eternity.

Prayer: Lord thank You for showing me the power of time and the things I may have taken for granted. Help me as I become more intentional and disciplined with time so I fulfil my purpose for which I was created.

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