

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road winding through a dense forest. The trees on the right side of the road are in full autumn foliage, displaying vibrant shades of orange, red, and yellow. The trees on the left are mostly green, with some bare, white branches. A semi-transparent dark green rectangular box is centered over the road, containing the title text.

Navigating Transitions

A small pink square logo located at the bottom center of the page. It contains the letters 'Hw' in a white, elegant script font. Below the letters, the text 'A Heart of Wisdom' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

A
Hw
A Heart of Wisdom

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

Life is not meant to be lived according to natural calendars such as January to December, but rather according to our seasons of life. And seasons are not static, they are dynamic and once it's time is up, a new season begins. If we're not conscious of this, we could lock ourselves into a cycle that's outside of God's agenda.

Since life is lived in seasons, this means we're constantly transitioning from one season to another. The transition phase may be different depending on the season, but we're never meant to be stuck permanently in a particular stage, rather we're to move from glory to glory.

To navigate transitions effectively, we must understand when one phase is ending and another is starting, how to enter the next phase, how to stabilize in a phase and how to ensure we're constantly flowing with the Holy Spirit and ensuring that our best days should never be behind us.



Day 1 Transition Signals

'And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings' Acts 17:26

God is the author of time and already has the seasons of our lives mapped out, with each season designed to fall within a particular time frame. This is why we see phrases in the Bible such as "at the appointed time" because there's something we're supposed to be doing per time according to God's schedule. The way seasons work, there's a transition period between the ending of an old phase and the start of the new one, so we can prepare and position accordingly. How do we then know when the time for a particular phase is ending?

'The Lord our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: 'You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.' Deuteronomy 1:6

"Pain has come to the people like the pain of childbirth, but they are like a child who resists being born. The moment of birth has arrived, but they stay in the womb!" Hosea 13:13 NLT

God put a clock in us to alert us when it's time to move ahead.

While in the wilderness, the Israelites technically could have left at any time, especially as they knew in principle where they were headed. However, God had a specific timeline in mind for their journey and prompted them by a pillar of fire/cloud when it was time to move. Likewise, when we're about to transit to a new phase, there's a prompting we get within us that a shift is coming. This means that if we don't have an active walk with the Holy Spirit, we may miss the promptings that signal such transitions and move either ahead of or behind time and both options take us out of alignment.

'So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.' Colossians 1:9

The Holy Spirit is best positioned to let us know if we're aligned with our seasons or not and He also knows the best way to prompt us that a move is coming. For some of us, it could be an urge to pray more, or a dissatisfaction with the status quo, it could be a sudden desire to embark on new projects, it could be a feeling that there's a need to retreat and undertake personal contemplation – He's not limited in how He prompts us because He knows what will get our attention. It's up to us however to respond to those promptings.

Prayer: Lord, help me to be sensitive and obedient to Your promptings so I know when a transition is coming.



Day 2 Ending A Season

“The end of a thing is better than its beginning...” Ecclesiastes 7:8

'Finishing is better than starting.' Ecclesiastes 7:8 NLT

We said yesterday that life is made up of seasons which are broken down into blocks of time. Seasons are peculiar to people so two people may be present at the same time, but going through different seasons. We should be mindful that the end of a season is just as important, if not more so than the start because ending well qualifies us to move on to the next phase.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” Romans 12:2

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14

Just as a student must pass certain tests before going on to the next level, we need to close a season well to transition to the next phase. This involves training and pruning to ensure we can effectively deal with the pressures and blessings that are assigned to the new level. Many times when we ask God to move us forward, we don't ask Him to prepare us for that move because we assume that it's the same version of us that will be moved to the new. However we see that God doesn't work that way. We are constantly being transformed so a new season will demand a higher level of us: spiritual exercises, personal sacrifices and thinking. Paul speaks of reaching and pressing toward a goal which means that he understood that what got him to a particular level won't take him to the next.

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.” John 15:1-2

Pruning is a painful but necessary process for us to grow, so when we see God placing higher demands on us or taking certain things away from us, it means that we're in a season of transition. Some things that are okay now may be weights in the next season and because God sees the end from the beginning, He already know the things in us that need to go per time. God's objective isn't to punish us, but to help us make the necessary corrections so we're well prepared to take full advantage of the next level.

Prayer: Lord help me recognise when you're training and pruning me and help me cooperate with Your process so a higher level of me can emerge.

Day 3 Positioning

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.” Romans 8:14 NLT

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.”
Psalms 37:23

One of the most critical things for starting a new season is positioning. As children of God we should be led by the Holy Spirit by default, however in reality we find that most of the time we’re led by our personal desires, emotions and a myriad of other things. The result of not being led by the Holy Spirit is that we won’t walk in alignment with His plans. God is very precise when it comes to timing and locations, so that tells us that in addition to promptings and disciplines, positioning is also critical to transitioning successfully.

“He replied, “As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him...” Luke 22:10

In the scripture above, Jesus sent two disciples to prepare the Passover meal and His instructions were about positioning. If the disciples had delayed or gotten distracted, they may have missed the man carrying a pitcher of water which would have been quite problematic for them. Why didn’t Jesus just give them an address and tell them to go straight there? The Bible is full of principles and this is an example of the principle of being led by the Holy Spirit which Jesus was teaching His disciples and us. We see a similar principle play out with Abraham when the Lord essentially told him to leave for a place he didn’t know, trusting the Lord to guide him along the way.

“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

When we have obeyed the promptings and yielded to the disciplines of the Lord, He will position us to take steps that will lead us into the new season. Positioning could be going to a specific place where we meet someone who opens unexpected doors for us, learning a skill that distinguishes us for the future, or a host of other things. The Holy Spirit knows what He would have us do, but we must be willing to be led by Him.

Prayer: Lord position me so I always move from season to season successfully.

Day 4 Contention

“I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.” Exodus 3:17

Transitions aren't always smooth and free flowing. In fact many times there's contention involved because there are things that need to be dismantled so you can take your rightful position at a higher level. When the Lord promised Israel the land flowing with milk and honey, He knew that land was already occupied, but as far as He was concerned it belonged to Israel, so Israel had to dispossess these nations so they could occupy the land.

“We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!” Numbers 13:33

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

“We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Today we may not need to fight physical battles, but there's definitely warfare involved in transitioning. Israel was meant to transition to their possession but when they saw potential opposition because of the giants in the land, they feared and backed down. But remember before they even left Egypt, God already told them He had given them the land. And guess what, after the generation of people that believed they couldn't take the land died, their children took their rightful possession.

God's word is sure, if we are led by Him to take action then we should expect there will be contention. However we stand on the word He's given us and contend for our new level according to the strategy He gives us, because victory is assured.

Prayer: Lord help me to see contention from Your perspective and to stand on the strength of Your word so I am not discouraged from moving forward when challenges come.

Day 5 Avoiding Stagnation

'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

One thing we must realize is that when we are moving to new levels is that we need to be willing to keep moving, otherwise we run the risk of becoming stagnant in that phase. Abraham's father Terah began a journey to Canaan, but he stopped and settled on the way and died where he stopped. God is always looking to move us ahead according to His plan for our lives, however He won't force us, He can only take us as far as we are willing to go with Him.

'I hear the Lord saying, "I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don't make it difficult; don't be stubborn when I take you where you've not been before. Don't make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!" Psalms 32:8-9 TPT

We have a Father who loves us deeply and loves to lavish gifts on us (James 1:17, Pro 10:22) and He has a plan for us which we are to fulfil during our seasons here on earth. So each transition is meant to equip us with the capacity to fulfil that plan. Moving through transitions requires a high level of sensitivity and a determination to align with the Holy Spirit come what may. Tests, pruning and the like may not feel good to our bodies, but they help our spirit grow more and more like Jesus which is the ultimate goal and thankfully there is grace to help us do so. Yes, we can choose to stop moving at any point, but then we will not fulfil all God has planned for us and be totally out of alignment. Let's choose today to align with the Holy Spirit so He can take us from stage to stage until we fully accomplish what we were designed to do.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the grace to keep transitioning and growing, help me to move easily with you as You guide me.



Day 6 Rest & Stability

“But now the Lord my God has given me peace on every side... So I am planning to build a Temple to honor the name of the Lord my God, just as he had instructed my father, David...”
1 Kings 5:4-5

The underlying objective of transitions is to transform us into the version required to fulfil our assignments per season. Solomon had an assignment concerning the temple for the Lord and God provided the enabling environment for him to complete that assignment. During transitions there will be a period where we're not actively engaging in tests or contention so we can focus on how to stabilise and thrive in the new season, as well as gain strength and perspective for the next.

“Praise the Lord, who is my rock. He trains my hands for war and gives my fingers skill for battle.” Psalms 144:1

It's in times of peace that soldiers train for war, both tactical and strategic. Likewise, times of rest shouldn't be viewed as periods for forgetting God because everything seems to be going smoothly. They should instead be used as times of renewing strength (physical and spiritual), getting clarity on how to thrive in the current season and gaining direction on how to prepare for the next.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” Ephesians 3:20

This doesn't mean we're not to enjoy the life God gives us and peace when we have it - it is the joy of our Father that His children thrive and live a full life (Jn 10:10). It's for us to live with the consciousness that there's much more available to us in Christ through the leading of the Holy Spirit. And since the spiritual controls the natural, the more we engage the Holy Spirit for more depth, the more we will see our natural lives impacted for God's glory. And as we continually become more like Christ, our paths shine brighter as we successfully transit from season to season and glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18).

Prayer: Lord thank You for rest and the opportunity to stabilise so I can gain perspective and direction for this and the next season.

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