

A full moon is visible in the sky above a beach at sunset. The sky is a mix of purple and orange, and the water is calm with gentle waves washing onto the sand.

New Seasons
TRANSITIONAL
BATTLES



“But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”

Proverbs 4:18

“For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:19

The life of a believer is designed by God to be one of continuous growth, sponsored by constant transitional seasons that ensure we are always being enlarged.

Understandably we love and welcome the idea of a new season because it generally speaks of freshness, expansion and new possibilities. However, something we often neglect to give attention to is that entering a new season isn't an event but a process and that process will be accompanied by battles. This is because the enemy knows the impact a believer can have when he/she is transited by God to a higher level as such the kingdom of darkness will do everything possible to frustrate the transition process.

Consequently there are battles believers will face before, during and after a transition and we must be prepared for them so the enemy doesn't take advantage of us. This series we are highlighting some of the battles we will face in transitions so we can identify and prepare in advance for them by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Day 1

Truncating New Seasons

'After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'" Matthew 2:13

One of the tactics of the enemy is to try and truncate a new season before it even starts. Looking at the life of Jesus, we see how the enemy working through Herod tried to terminate His assignment before He even started when Jesus was an infant. The logic was simple – remove the child before He gets a chance to grow and become the king. If there's no child there's no king. This is how the enemy sometimes attacks our assignments by making sure we don't even start in the first place.

'Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry. When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.' Luke 4:1-2,13

The same way the enemy didn't stop when Jesus was an infant, he keeps looking for ways to hamper us. Looking again at the life of Jesus, once He was baptized and ready to start His earthly ministry He had to face the devil first. The Bible doesn't tell us of any significant spiritual battle before His 40-day fast, but as soon as He completed this, the devil showed up immediately and began tempting Him with the sole intent of truncating His assignment. One would think after a stretch of spiritual activity like a 40-day fast that Jesus would just kick start the work, but He had to deal with opposition from the devil first.

'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

If Satan did this to Jesus, he will try similar tactics with us to truncate the new season before it even starts. Note that the Bible says the devil left Jesus until the next opportunity. This tells us that he will keep trying whenever we are about to enter something new. The methods vary based on what the enemy's focus of attack is, but we should know that the kingdom of darkness will certainly show up when we are about to step into something new.

Prayer: Lord grant me heightened sensitivity around new seasons and the grace to be alert to the wiles of the enemy to try and truncate my destiny. Give me strength to prevail and step into the level You have for me.

Day 2 Higher Level Battles

'There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.' 1 Corinthians 16:9

In most educational establishments before a student can advance to a higher level, that student must undertake some form of test to ascertain their understanding of what they've already been taught. The assessment of this understanding is what the establishment uses to determine their capacity to move to the next level. This is because the establishment understands that the student will have to face a higher level of assessment at the next level.

Transitions bring us to a new season and as we progress to higher levels, we will encounter battles that were waiting for us to arrive as each level has its own challenges. This could be confusing at first, because our initial thoughts are typically that a new level only comes with blessings. But Paul brings the spiritual reality to bear – whenever God opens a door there will be opposition waiting to try and hinder us from getting the full benefit of that opportunity and the nature of the warfare intensifies as we advance.

'So Achish gave him [David] the town of Ziklag (which still belongs to the kings of Judah to this day), and they lived there among the Philistines for a year and four months.' 1 Samuel 27:5-7

'When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he went into the stronghold.' 2 Samuel 5:17

There are some people, situations etc. that are seemingly allies when you function at a particular level, but once promotion comes, the story changes. When David was on the run from Saul, he ran to Philistine territory, calculating that Saul wouldn't come looking for him there since they were Israel's enemies. David was right in this assumption, and he stayed there for over a year, with the king even giving him a town for he and his men. However, the narrative changed when David became king of Israel. The same Philistines who had previously given David shelter now mobilized to attack him because even though it was the same David, his new level presented a threat to them.

The challenges that come with advancement aren't limited to people alone. There will be battles that will require a higher level of wisdom, understanding, capacity and much more not because of you but because they are assigned to that level. As we transit to higher levels we must be mindful of this and allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us so like David we are prepared in advance to meet and overcome the challenges.

Prayer: Lord prepare me in advance for the battles to be faced, help me yield to Your workings in and around me so I am not overwhelmed by what the new level brings.

Day 3 Battle of Focus

'Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"' Genesis 3:1

If the enemy cannot stop us from entering our new season, the next tactic to deploy is distraction. Please don't ever forget that we are dealing with a highly intelligent and cunning force, which means the distractions the enemy puts in our way won't be obvious and may come in the form of a suggestion that seems to make sense, however it's been designed to derail us.

'In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.' 2 Samuel 11:1

When David sent Joab to fight the Ammonites, he may have thought to himself that there was no reason to go with them since he had an elite army that could handle the battle. The same way God orchestrates our steps, the enemy can also orchestrate encounters to derail us. The enemy knows our area of weakness and intentionally positions distractions that we are likely to fall for. Knowing David had a weakness for women, it was therefore no coincidence that David "happened" to see the beautiful Bathsheba and sent for her. What David didn't realize was that decision set him up to face a bigger battle which significantly impacted his life and family.

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

'For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.' Romans 8:13

There will always be options the enemy will place before us that will appeal to our area of weakness, but as we allow the Holy Spirit to change us and change our appetites, it becomes easier for us to identify when an illegal pursuit is introduced to us.

'David rose to his feet and said: "My brothers and my people! It was my desire to build a Temple...but God said to me, 'You must not build a Temple to honor my name, for you are a warrior and have shed much blood.'" 1 Chronicles 28:2-3

Another way the enemy distracts us is by placing options before us that seem good but aren't God's plan. David had a good desire to build God's temple, but God wanted Solomon to build it. Had David gone ahead, he would have felt justified that he'd done a good thing, however good isn't always God.

Prayer: Lord help me deal with my areas of weakness so the enemy doesn't take advantage of me. Please also help me discern between what seems good and what is Your plan.

Day 4

Training for Reigning

'And the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.'
Deuteronomy 7:22

One of the battles we face in transitions is that of patience. Once we start sensing it's time to move or we receive a specific word from the Lord, we can start getting impatient and try and run things according to our own schedule rather than that of God. The Lord in His wisdom knows the battles ahead of us and what it takes to prepare us for the future He designed in detail. This is why He takes time to prepare us so we don't become overwhelmed.

Israel left Egypt as slaves not warriors. When Moses spoke about the beasts of the field, he wasn't referring to animals but spiritual entities of the pagan nations they were to battle and evict. Israel needed to learn how to battle both in the physical and spiritual first before the Lord would expose them to such high-level warfare. Knowing this the Lord committed to driving these nations out little by little. The Lord knew that if they faced significant battle from the onset Israel would become overwhelmed, overpowered and unable to take the promised land.

'Blessed be the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle'
Psalms 144:1

There's a training process we must go through if we are to stand the test of time and build the capacity to go on to higher levels. For instance, David didn't become king immediately Samuel anointed him. Instead, he fought several battles in Saul's army, built his own army, became king of Judah and then all of Israel – a process that took over 15 years. It would have been understandable for David to try and fast track things since he was legitimately anointed to be king. However, David understood the ways of God and allowed God to build up the required capacity within and around him which ensured his consistent success. There's a lesson to be learnt here as the enemy will do everything possible to attack our patience and alignment with God's preparation program.

Prayer: Lord help me be patient and move at Your pace so I stay aligned with Your training program for the battles ahead of me.

Day 5 Battling Conspiracies

“Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.” Isaiah 54:15 KJV

Once we advance to a higher level one of the battles we have to fight is that of conspiracies - demonic inspired gatherings of people against us. The Bible says they shall surely gather thus we shouldn't be surprised when it happens. In the natural the gatherings may take different forms, but there's a singular spiritual objective which is to distract/derail us from what God has planned. Once we understand this objective, it shapes how we respond to such gatherings. Let's look at case studies of Nehemiah and Daniel.

“Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall... [they] sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together...” But they thought to do me harm... But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.” Nehemiah 6:1-4

“For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.” Nehemiah 6:9

When Nehemiah was close to completing the repairs of Jerusalem's walls, Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem gathered to intimidate and distract him from completing the task. Their conspiracy was long drawn, detailed and involved all sorts of scheming against Nehemiah. Despite their actions, Nehemiah remained consistent and focused on his God given assignment.'

“So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom...Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”” Daniel 6:4-5

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” Daniel 6:10

In Daniel's case an anticipated promotion triggered a conspiracy that took the form of policy formation which was designed specifically to attack his walk with God. As with Nehemiah, Daniel didn't focus on the conspirators but on his God, and God delivered him from their plans.

“The nations have fallen into the pit they dug for others. Their own feet have been caught in the trap they set.” Psalms 9:15

Regardless of the form the conspiracy takes our primary focus must be our walk with God. He knows the best way to silence opposition while strengthening us to keep doing what He asked us to do.

Prayer: Lord contend with those that contend with me and strengthen me to stay focused on Your assignment.

Day 6

Battle of Endurance

'O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray day and night, continually. Take no rest, all you who pray to the Lord. Give the Lord no rest until he completes his work, until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth.' Isaiah 62:6-7

Some transitional battles take longer than others and sometimes the battle can be so intense we're tempted to give up. When we're in such a situation, the first thing to remember is that we have already won – what we're doing is fighting to enforce the victory Jesus already won for us. We're fighting an enemy that's defeated, but not tired. Knowing he's already lost, part of the enemy's battle strategy is to intentionally try and wear out believers so that we give up.

'Gideon then crossed the Jordan River with his 300 men, and though exhausted, they continued to chase the enemy' Judges 8:4

'Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.' Exodus 17:12-13

'Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.' Ephesians 6:13

There's a finishing attitude required on our part if we want to experience all God has created us for. The enemy doesn't give up easily and neither should we. This is why we intentionally put on the whole armour of God. We also need to have people who will consistently encourage and support us through the battle as Aaron and Hur did for Moses because times will come when we want to give up. We need to have people on our corner who are committed to ensuring we remain standing. This tells us that during periods of transition it's not everyone that can be in our personal space and we should only give attention to things that sharpen us spiritually.

'But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.' Isaiah 40:31

Focusing on Jesus and not the battle gives us staying power as the Lord Himself renews and strengthens us so we have the stamina and the strategy for the battle ahead.

Prayer: Lord I ask for the stamina and strategy to face the battle ahead. Surround me with a support system that will sharpen me and help me to stay standing so I obtain all You have for me.

Day 7 Perspective and Perception

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he..." Proverbs 23:7

Perspective comes from the ability to form meaningful interrelationships based on the facts we know. Perception in the context of a believer is a knowing that comes from the leading or inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In a transition, our perspective and perception must be in alignment otherwise we will miss the season. This is because transitions are often characterized by uncertainty, lack of clarity and sometimes fear either because we don't know what's coming next, or we do and it appears too daunting and we're in a state of flux.

"...But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16

"We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments... We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

When things around us seem to be topsy turvy, accurately evaluating the situation is critical because how we perceive what is going on will shape our perspective and our actions. The enemy capitalizes on such seasons of change to try and introduce another perspective to us through arguments that God doesn't care, prayer doesn't work, it's probably time to figure things out totally on our own and God will catch up later. These and more whispers may be filtering into our minds and if we permit them to stay, the enemy starts building on them until they become a stronghold.

The fact that a thought enters our mind doesn't mean it's from God; and any thought that contradicts who God says He is and what He says concerning us is rebellious and must be captured and submitted to the authority of Christ. While we may not be able to stop a thought from coming, we have the power and authority to reject a negative thought and superimpose the word of God. This is an ongoing battle we must be mindful of so the enemy doesn't use us to derail ourselves.

Prayer: Lord let me be conscious of my thoughts, the truth of who You are and that I have the mind of Christ. Help me consistently take authority of my thoughts and bring them to the obedience of Christ.

Day 8 Battle of Comfort

'Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.' Isaiah 43:18-19

Transitions bring change and change is almost always uncomfortable. No one likes giving up the comfort of the familiar for the discomfort of the unknown, however transitions are characterized by unknowns. When God takes us on a journey, He doesn't necessarily give us the full picture upfront. Rather He wants us to trust Him as He takes us step by step. This automatically presents a conflict we need to address within ourselves. We can't trust who we don't know and the extent to which we know the Lord is the extent to which we will trust Him for the future.

'[I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son].' Ephesians 1:17

'The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control." ' Psalms 32:8-9

In transitions one of the things we need to pray for is an understanding of who God is so we don't misinterpret His actions. Understanding who He is and what He's doing positions us to fight accurately and strategically and helps us align with His objective, so we don't end up inadvertently fighting Him. His pathway to transit us may be unorthodox from our perspective, but we must trust that even if it may not make sense immediately, whatever He's leading us through is the best pathway to get to the other side of the transition.

'...For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.' Isaiah 49:23

'Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.' Malachi 3:18

God doesn't trivialize His relationship with His children and will never dishonor those who honour Him. Trusting God and aligning to His agenda shows that we honor Him as Lord over our lives and He has assured us that we can never be ashamed for doing so. Rather He lifts us and positions us where our light will shine and our lives bring Him glory.

Prayer: Lord help me grow in my knowledge and understanding of You and Your ways so my trust in You can increase. As I go through this transition help me always remember that You will lead me along the best pathway.

Day 9 Settling Mentality

'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

There's a saying in the corporate world that, 'good is the enemy of great' and the same applies to our transitions. It's possible for God to take us so far from where we were that we think we're okay with where we are presently. Unfortunately, this mentality limits God, because we are essentially saying to Him, "take me this far and no further".

'The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you"... So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan' Genesis 12:1,4-5

Abraham's father Terah was on a journey to Canaan, but the Bible tells us that Terah stopped and settled in Haran and died there. We can assume Terah did well while in Haran as it's not likely that someone would intentionally stop and settle in a place that wasn't beneficial. Let's contrast this with Abraham, who though already quite wealthy still took a chance on God's promise to transit him to another dimension.

'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

The challenge we have as humans is that it's difficult for our minds to grasp what it's never experienced before because there's no frame of reference. This is why it's possible that we're expecting God to move us from one level to another, however what God wants to do will move us to a totally different dimension. There is no difficulty on God's part to transit us, but the determining factor is how willing we are to let the Holy Spirit move in us and follow His leading so we make the necessary adjustments that prepare us to function in a new dimension.

Prayer: Lord help me stop limiting You and be willing to go to the full extent of wherever You lead me.

Day 10 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

One of the greatest transition battles is that of alignment with God's will. All it takes is a slight deviation from God's will to take us completely off track, which is why Paul prayed that we may have "complete knowledge" of His will. As people we are generally predisposed to wanting to see the full picture, so where there are gaps in what we can see or what we know, we may default to trying to fill the gap with our assumptions, experience, expectations. The battle to know what God's complete will for our lives involves us being humble, trusting and obedient.

'Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.'
Jeremiah 33:3

'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.'
John 16:13

Alignment with God's will isn't meant to be trial and error, but the result of our consistent fellowship with the Holy Spirit who reveals the mind of our Father in heaven to us. He is also the spirit of Counsel who orders our steps and guides us along the best pathway for our lives. The battle therefore is to keep our eyes focused on who really counts and what really matters.

'So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.'
Hebrews 4:11

'It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.'
Proverbs 25:2

If we live daily with an intentionality to know what God's will is for our lives and those around us, the nation at large, etc. then it will likely alter the way we approach life. We start understanding how the Lord expects us to depend on and trust in Him, not just because He says so, but because we consistently experience the benefits of His guidance for ourselves. There's a difference between hearing about God's guidance and another to experience it ourselves. As we let God lead us through the seemingly smaller decisions of life, we learn to depend on Him more for key decisions knowing that whatever He takes us to, He will take us through. Trust and obedience don't come by chance, it's the result of increasing in our knowledge of who God is, what His word says, the ability of the Holy Spirit to carry us through and the victory Jesus already won for us.

Prayer: Lord grant me the spirit of wisdom and revelation that will help me grow in my knowledge of You so I can obey You more consistently, trusting that You will align me with Your perfect will.

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, connect with us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

You can also listen to our Podcasts on:

[Spotify](#)

[Anchor FM](#)

[Google Podcasts](#)

[Apple Podcasts](#)

Or send us an Email: aheartofwisdom@gmail.com

©Aheartofwisdom