

Now What? Seasons and Transitions

God at Work – How does God Work? The Ways of God - Part 2

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Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

The Big Idea

God is consistently at work within His children leading them through the path of life. From season to season the Lord leads His people into His promises. God has His “ways” about Him—a process by which He accomplishes His purposes. We see countless examples in scripture of this transition.

Bible Passages

Psalms 25:4-5

⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. ⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

Psalms 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 103:7

He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

The Temptation of Jesus

Luke 4:1-15

¹ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit ^[a]into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. ³ And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; or *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” ⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,’ ¹¹ and, ‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not ^[a]tempt the LORD your God.’” ¹³ Now when the devil had ended every ^[b]temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. ¹⁴ Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

The Four Tests

Luke 4:1-3

¹ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. ³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

→ TEST ONE – The bread test – money or substance – resources or gold

Luke 4:4-7

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.'" ⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, **and** their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." –

→ TEST TWO – The authority/power test

→ TEST THREE – The glory test

Luke 4:8-13

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.'"

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.

→ TEST FOUR – The identity test

¹⁰ For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU, TO KEEP YOU,'

¹¹ and, 'IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' " ¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.'" ¹³ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Jesus in the Wilderness - Key Observations

- The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness and the devil found Him there
- He came out in the Power of the Spirit
- Father affirmed Him before He went in at the Jordan
- The four tests of the wilderness
- The temptations come at the end.

Main Points

Big Idea

God is consistently at work within His children leading them through the path of life. From season to season the Lord leads His people into His promises. God has His "ways" about Him, a process by which he accomplishes His purposes. We see countless examples in scripture of this transition.

The Guiding Principles by Which God Works

- 1) **Promise** – the assurance that God will accomplish His word
- 2) **Prophetic revelation** – God's canvas of your future
- 3) **Process** – the path of life involves testing
- 4) **Provision** – God will supply the resources required for the journey
- 5) **Power** – the empowerment of Holy Spirit.

1. **Promise** – the assurance that God will accomplish His word
 - a. The fulfilment of God’s covenant to you
 - b. God begins the journey to the promised land with a promise, a covenant based on His word that cannot be broken
 - c. God holds His word above His own name because He is a covenant-keeping God.

2. **Prophetic revelation** – God's canvas (picture) of your future

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.

- a. Revelation or vision – speaks of the insight into the assignment of God for your life
 - i. God paints a picture of your future:
 - So you can perceive it and walk towards it
 - It is your ability to see the future
 - It can come through a vision, prophetic word, dream and so forth.

3. **Process** – the pathway of testing - the way through the wilderness (transition)

- a. There is simply no other way to put it—the wilderness is a place of severe testing. We are tested in the following areas:
 - i. Our character
 - ii. The promise of His word
 - iii. The purpose is to come forth as pure gold (for example: Joseph of the Old Testament, before his word came to pass the word of the Lord tried him)
- b. In the wilderness you must pass the four tests (see above)
 - i. Jesus was able to navigate the wilderness in 40 days
 - ii. The nation of Israel failed miserably in their wilderness test and they remained there for over 40 years
 - iii. You must pass four tests - The Temptation of Jesus

The 4 tests

1. The bread test – money and resources
2. Authority/power
3. Glory
4. Identity - self-awareness of who we are – the first power that God gave us was to become the children of God
- iv. Things that are found in the wilderness season:
 1. The Word of the Lord
 2. The leading of Holy Spirit
 3. Testing – at times severe
 4. The devil.

- c. ***“We love catalytic moments, but we do not love the process”*** – Bishop Tony Miller

Isaiah 43:19

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.

Job 23:10

But He knows the way that I take; When He has **tested** me, I shall come forth as gold.

4. **Provision** – the resources required for the journey

- a. **For every vision there is provision**
- b. It is absolutely critical that you understand the purpose of provision in every season, otherwise, like the children of Israel, you will use the provision to create a golden calf and call it God.
- c. Prior to His wilderness experience, Jesus was given the following at his baptism:
 - i. Affirmation that He was the Son of God
 - ii. The anointing of the Holy Spirit coming upon Him
 - iii. The fulfilment of all righteousness.

5. **Power** – the empowerment of Holy Spirit

- a. God desires to bring you into your seat of authority. For every assignment there is a corresponding seat.
- b. The empowerment of Holy Spirit is so that you will fulfil your divine assignment, the very reason that you were placed upon the face of the earth.
- c. God has given you a place to sit, it is there that you will find authority and power and all the resources that are required
- d. You need to be positioned/certain place, commission by Holy Spirit in order to fulfil your assignment
- e. God anoints you to sit in your seat of authority
Luke 4:14-15
¹⁴ Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Season Principles – Some Things About Seasons

Seasons:

1. Cannot be stopped – they arrive with little or no warning
 - a. They cannot be invited or rejected
 - b. They cannot be defied
2. All come to an end
3. Are designed to run their course
4. Bring their own provisions
5. Force cooperation
6. Has its own grace
7. Can be prolonged.

“Seasons do not qualify you, you qualify for your seasons” – Dr. Tony Soldano

Questions & Discussion

- 1) How have you overcome your test in the wilderness?
- 2) Do you know what your seat of authority is?
- 3) Discuss the five P's. How do they apply in your life?
- 4) What additional descriptions would you add to the section on seasons?
- 5) Describe what is meant by the wilderness experience. How do you know you are in it?
- 6) What temptations have you had to overcome?
- 7) What authority, power and anointing have you experienced in Christ?