

Now What? Seasons and Transitions

Where Did That Come From? When Seasons Arrive With No Warning – Part 3

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Big Idea

Seasons can come with little or no warning whatsoever. Are there principles in the Word of God that can guide us and help us navigate these very uncertain seasons? Yes! God shifted a season that had lasted 400 years with five words. He informed Joshua that Moses, his servant, was dead and that now it was his assignment and responsibility to lead the people into the promised land. There are some wisdom keys that can help you navigate these unannounced seasons.

“Moses My Servant Is Dead”

God Commissions Joshua

Joshua 1:1-9

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: ² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, **arise, go over this Jordan**, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ **Be strong and of good courage**, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Observations from The Passage

- The announcement to Joshua came with no warning
- God shifted 400 years of history with five words: “Moses my servant is dead”
- God’s PROMISE is His INVITATION - God puts a promise in your life and then puts you on a journey to fulfil it – find and live it out
- *“The prophetic revelation is God’s commercial of the future”*
- Sometimes God takes you sideways to take you forward.

In Joshua 1 there are some keywords that God communicates with Joshua:

"Commanded you"

- **God’s prescription for being overwhelmed: “I am with you”**
 - *“I am with you”* – God’s presence – “GRAB a hold of Me”
- Joshua felt overwhelmed
 - He had to overcome his own insecurities – Moses was dead
 - He had to be reminded of who he was
- The New Testament is all about IDENTITY – who we are.

Given

- Means to give an **assignment** – like a teacher gives an assignment
 - Step in and step on
- **Invitation** to you by God
- You are born to choose - you are a **chooser**
- What are you going after – what is on the inside – what are you being pushed towards?

Strong

- **You cannot be strong for something you do not believe you are supposed to have**
- **Seize** on to – get a grip on tight – hold on to it – do not get soft with it
- INNER man – be strong – not a front – on the inside
- Internal – be first than do – John 1:12 – the power to become sons of God
- Be strong” – It is an internal thing – *you cannot fake being strong on the inside – either you are, or you are not*”.

Courageous – courage – “Gozak”

- “Gozak” – seize on to tight, get a grip, hold, do not get soft
- God cannot be courageous for you
 - *“God can give you strength, but He cannot be courageous for you” – Bishop Tony Miller*
- Step up out of your comfort zone - faith forward.

Strong & Courageous - Wisdom Keys

Throughout the life of Joshua we see his strength and courage on display. His determination to obey God and fulfill his assignment is a testament to his obedience and submission to God’s will and assignment for his life. Consider some of the key leadership principles that Joshua employed:

1. People – “You and this company”

- a. The people that accompany you and that you take with you is absolutely critical within the season of transition. Consider:
 - i. Do not compare yourself with others
 - ii. Some people may need to be removed from your company in order for you to move forward
 - iii. Your calling must out-grow your company otherwise you will remain stagnant and fail to progress forward.

2. Be persuaded – “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

- a. Joshua needed to be persuaded by God to move forward and to take Israel into its inheritance—the promised land, but once he complied, his fruitfulness and success were evident. When we are in the midst of transition, we must ensure that we are making decisions by faith and not fear. In other words, we must be persuaded and/or convinced that we have heard from God and that we are following His will.
 - i. God is working to persuade you about His Word and His nature
 - ii. Abraham is another example of an individual that was persuaded that he had heard from God. Even though he is living in the Old Testament he was written about by Paul in the New Testament as an example of great faith:

Romans 4-20-22

²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being **fully convinced** that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² And therefore "IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

3. **Flexibility** is required to embrace God's designed opportunities of our lives
- a. ***During transition, we must remain flexible and agile. We must be able to pivot quickly and not get stuck in a rut and/or in old ways. It is imperative that we do not become rigid and frustrate the grace of God in our lives.***
 - b. Paul the apostle writes that he learned how to be content in every given situation because of the grace of God that was upon his life:

Philippians 4:11

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ...

- c. Do not be rigid in this season:
 - i. Discern the plans of God and adjust accordingly
 - ii. Most people are rigid and unwilling to change
 - iii. When we are rigid, we can miss God
 - iv. Non-flexible attitudes
 - v. New wine skin required for every new season
 - The wineskin is renewed by having oil rubbed into it. The oil represents the Holy Spirit and the anointing that He provides in our lives.

4. **Train your senses**

- a. ***It is imperative that our spiritual senses be exercised trained and developed during seasons of transition. The author of the book of Hebrews expresses that the senses need to be exercised in order to sharpen our discernment.***

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised (TRAIN) to discern both good and evil.

- b. Train your spirit:
 - i. Do not sleepwalk through life – expect things to happen
 - ii. Condition yourself
 - iii. **How should we “cross over” in this season of transition:**
 1. Listening ears
 2. Seeing eyes
 3. Discerning hearts.

5. **Stir up the gift INSIDE OF YOU**

We are encouraged to stir up the gift that resides within us. This is essential to transition in seasons that arrive without notice.

2Timothy 1:6

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

- This was a reminder to Timothy
- What has God placed within you and entrusted to you?
- The gift must be put into use – it needs to be stirred by faith
- The gift will assist you in times of transition
- The gift is always to bless others.

Questions & Discussion

- 1) Does God have permission to interrupt your life? Please explain and give examples.
- 2) What are some of the spiritual senses that you have exercised recently?
- 3) The terms, strong and courageous, bring out the idea that we must have a firm grip on something. Describe a time when you had to take a firm grip and what does that look like in real life?
- 4) What are the gifts that God has given you? How can you stir them up?
- 5) What area(s) of your life is/are rigid?
- 6) Have you made decisions in which you were not persuaded?
- 7) Create a list of people that God is adding and removing from your life?