

I think today's services were the best I've been in for quite some time. What a God we serve!

Many blessings and MYESE!

Part 20: Elevate Your Life!

Texts:

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) - *"God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."*

Luke 9:1 (NIV) - "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 (NKJV) - "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: [2] A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; [3] A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; [4] A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;"

Today, we will discuss Level 7 of "The Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority."

"Authority Over Seasons!"

- A. Seasons are an established fact of our natural life.
 - 1. Every year, the earth processes four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter.
 - 2. A healthy marriage or relationship will experience five seasons:
 - a. Young love

- b. Realistic love (once reality begins, you learn to love the real person rather than a fairy-tale image of who you thought they were.)
 - c. Comfortable love
 - d. Renewing love
 - e. Transcendent love
- 3. Six predictable seasons of life are in the cycle between birth and death:
 - a. Infancy
 - b. Puberty
 - c. Adolescence
 - d. Young adulthood
 - e. Middle age
 - f. Old age
- 4. The four stages of life are: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
 - a. The exception is when a person gives birth, but rather than dying, they continue to grow and reproduce again.
 - b. In nature, death comes when something stops reproducing and is no longer productive.
- 5. Development comes in seasons:
 - a. To become a master, you begin studying a certain subject, such as calculus, and then become an apprentice electrician or perhaps a computer programmer. When you begin, it's much like trying to read hieroglyphics.
 - b. Over a period of time, you learn and gain experience in the dynamics of the subject so that it can be easily managed.
 - c. The final season of development is to make the subject that was once foreign, begin to work for you. At that point, you have mastered what once mastered you!
- 6. There are seasons of gain and seasons of loss.
- 7. The enemy seeks to reverse all our seasons into times of darkness, loss and pain. What keeps us going during these overwhelming experiences is

the hope that things will change—even though we don't know how or when. All we know is that it **will** happen!

8. Suppose you had the authority to speak these words to the enemy's seasons of loss, reversal, pain and darkness: "This season is hereby cancelled—in Jesus' Name! As of this moment, it shall be replaced by a season of happiness, joy, fulfillment and fruitful harvest!"

B. While seasons are a fact of life in the natural world, it is not so in the spirit dimension or eternity. Seasons do not exist there. Notice that scripture says: "There is a season to every purpose UNDER heaven."

1. At the dawn of creation, seasons did not exist—nor will our present world always be subject to seasonal changes.
2. Just to be certain there is no confusion and we're all on the same page, let me explain what I mean.
3. **Joke:** Ha'lo Stat'tue

Did you hear about the time when oil was discovered on old Boudreaux's land? The strike was so huge, Boudreaux suddenly found himself a wealthy man. His friends advised him to build a big new house befitting the status of one who had become so rich.

The next day, Boudreaux called a contractor and carefully explained what he wanted the new house to look like. He described the lawn and the gardens, the swimming pool, kitchen, sitting room, bedrooms for the kids and the master bedroom. Then he carefully explained that it had to have one of dem houses on top with one of dem curving ladders that you walk up to reach it and at de bottom of the ladder, one of dem ha'lo stat'tues. The contractor was puzzled for a moment until he figured out that the "house on top" meant Boudreaux wanted the house to have two stories with a spiral staircase between the first and second floor.

But no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't figure out what a ha'lo stat'tue was. He was afraid to say that he didn't know what it was for fear Boudreaux would think he wasn't a very good builder.

So, the contractor began building a beautiful, luxurious two storied home with a spiral staircase. Right at the base of the stairs he placed a statue of the Virgin Mary with a halo around her head--exactly where Boudreaux said he wanted a ha'lo stat'tue.

After it was finished, Boudreaux and his wife came to see the home. They loved the lawns, the gardens, the two stories, the swimming pool, kitchen and everything they saw--until they were ready to climb the staircase to the second floor. And there sat the statue of Mary. Boudreaux quickly stopped and said, "No, no! Not a statue! I want one of dem ha'lo stat'tues!"

The contractor replied, "The only thing I wasn't sure about was this ha'lo stat'tue you asked for. I thought you meant a statue of Mary."

Boudreaux looked back at the contractor and said, "No, no sha! Not dat. And besides, I know you don know what dat is, fo' sho. Dat's one of dem tings dat sits by dat curving ladder and go 'ring, ring, ring.' Den you don pick it up and say, 'Ha'lo, stat'tue?'"

4. Seasons were the result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve.
 - a. **Genesis 3:17-19 (MSG)** - "He told the Man: "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree That I commanded you not to eat from, 'Don't eat from this tree,' The very ground is cursed because of you; getting food from the ground Will be as painful as having babies is for your wife; you'll be working in pain all your life long. The ground will sprout thorns and weeds, you'll get your food the hard way, Planting and tilling and harvesting, sweating in the fields from dawn to dusk, Until you return to that ground yourself, dead and buried; you started out as dirt, you'll end up dirt."

- b. The ground was cursed, but apparently God's grace allowed the man to gather a harvest large enough to survive. Seasons are actually an accommodation for fallen, sinful man.
 - c. Genesis reveals the story of man's fall. Prior to that, the earth was watered by a mist that arose from the earth.
 - d. **Genesis 2:5b-6 NKJV** - "For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; [6] but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground."
 - e. This is where Jewish people conceived the idea for mist irrigation and micro-irrigation gardening techniques that have absolutely transformed Israel.
5. At that time, the earth was also surrounded by water vapor. We are told that the vapor provided a greenhouse effect that kept the earth's temperature so constant, the harvest season lasted all year long, much like the land near the equator.
6. When the people became so wicked in the days of Noah, God's punishment was to send a Flood that nearly annihilated mankind. The shield of water vapor surrounding the earth fell from the skies in a torrential rain that lasted forty days and nights.
- a. **Genesis 7:11-12 (NIV)** - "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month —on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights."
 - b. After the flood waters receded, God made a covenant with Noah that consisted of two promises: He would never again destroy the earth with a Flood, and from that point on, the earth would have seasons.

- c. **Genesis 8:22 (NKJV)** - "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

7. Seasons will remain as long as the earth stands.

C. The Bible promises that the time will come when harvests will occur year round.

In other words, *there will be no more seasons!*

- 1. **Revelation 22:1-3 (NIV)** - "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse."

- a. The Book of Revelation tells us that the New Jerusalem will descend from God out of heaven and literally be accessible on earth.

- b. When that occurs, seasons will no longer exist! Why? Revelation 22:3 says, ***there will be no more curse.*** The curse, which is the effect of sin, will be removed.

- c. **Amos 9:13 (NKJV)** - "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it."

2. In spite of the curse of sin, throughout the Bible God's people would often experience an abrupt seasonal change.

- a. **Daniel 2:20-22 (NKJV)** - "Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He CHANGES the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him."

3. God has authority to change your season.
 - a. He changed Abraham's season from being childless to becoming the father of many nations.
 - b. In the time of famine, God changed Isaac's season to a supernatural harvest.
 - c. **Genesis 26:1a (NIV)** - "Now there was a famine in the land— besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—"
 - d. **Genesis 26:12-13 (NIV)** - "Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him. The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy."
 - e. In one day, God changed Joseph's season of barely existing in a prison cell to being second in command over the land of Egypt.
 - f. For the desert surrounding Israel to blossom like a rose, God literally had to change the growing season for all the crops.
 - g. Job's season of total loss was changed to twice the possession he had before.
 - h. From being a hunted criminal hiding in the wilderness, David became King of Israel.
 - i. Elijah changed Israel's season twice by declaring there would be no rain for three years and then by declaring the drought had come to an end.
 - j. The King of Nineveh changed the season for his nation by repenting before God with fasting and prayers.
 - k. Ezekiel changed the season in the Valley of Dry Bones.
 - l. Esther changed the season for the entire Jewish population by preserving their lives from Haman's cruel law.
 - m. Daniel changed Israel's season by praying for his people to be released from Babylon.

- n. Jesus changed the season for nearly everyone He came in contact with—the lepers, demoniacs, deaf, blind, lame, and diseased!
- o. Peter and John changed the lame man's season at the Beautiful Gate by declaring a word of faith.
- p. God can change your season by making your life blossom like a garden, while those around you are in the 'desert.'

D. Over and over again, scripture reveals how Jesus demonstrated authority over seasons.

1. He cursed the fig tree for having no fruit—even though it wasn't the time for figs.
2. When the disciples were told to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, they caught so many fish, their nets broke.
3. When He fed the multitude, seasons of growth and harvest were accelerated to produce enough bread and fish to feed hundreds of hungry families.
4. What is so amazing is that while Jesus was fully God, He was also fully Man. What He did on earth was done as a man, not as God.
 - a. **Philippians 2:5-7 (NKJV)** - "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."
5. In our day, we are to function as Christ's Body on earth.
 - a. **John 14:12 (NKJV)** - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

E. Even if you aren't ready for a change of seasons now, if you continue to wait, the change will come.

1. **Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)** - "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven."
 - a. The words "season" and "time" come from the same Hebrew word.
 - b. In this verse, the two words are used interchangeably.
 - c. Since the word *time* could also be *season*, this scripture could read:
"to every season, there is a season."
 2. **Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 (NKJV)** - "I returned and saw under the sun that The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time:"
 3. Even though it may require years, if you wait long enough, your ship will come in. Just don't be at the airport when it arrives!
 4. Unfortunately, some people do not have the luxury of waiting for a new season. A man with lung cancer may not have another ten years to live. Likewise, the person who has just lost their job and their home is about to be foreclosed needs a change of season NOW!
 5. Life has been designed by God so that destiny and opportunity knock at everyone's door.
 6. Most people fail to benefit from their present season for these reasons:
 - a. They do not recognize the opportunity when it knocks.
 - b. They had failed to prepare themselves.
 - c. Without a strategy, the season could pass before they could take advantage of the opportunity.
 7. Leonard Ravenhill once said, "The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized within the lifetime of the opportunity!"
- F. As you have often heard me say, I believe that Jesus, the second Adam, came to restore what the first Adam lost.

1. **Acts 3:21 (NKJV)** - "Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."
2. It is unfortunate that most believers understand "the restoration of all things" to include only salvation and our relationship with God.
3. I believe that God intends to purge the world of EVERY effect of sin. As Revelation 22:3 says, *the curse will be removed!*
4. **Joel 2:25 (NKJV)** - "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you."
5. The Hebrew word for "restore" is *to make a covenant* or *to complete what is missing*. But in English, "restore" means:
 - a. To bring back into existence, use, etc.
 - b. To reestablish; to restore order.
 - c. To bring back to a state of health, soundness, or vigor.
 - d. To take back to a former place, or a former position, rank, etc.
 - e. To restore the king to his throne.
 - f. To give back.
 - g. Make a return or restitution of anything taken away or lost.
 - h. To reproduce or reconstruct—an ancient building, extinct animal, etc.--to its original state.

G. You can change your season.

1. The woman with the issue of blood *changed* her season. So did Bartimaeus and the ten lepers.
2. The Syrophenician woman changed the season for her daughter.
 - a. **Mark 7:25-30 (NKJV)** - "For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. [26] The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. [27]"

But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." [28] And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." [29] Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." [30] And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed."

- b. Syrophenician: Syro (Syrian); Phenician or Phoenician (Philistine)
3. To this day, both sides of her ancestral lineage and their descendants were enemies of Israel!
 4. Since Jesus had been sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, the "time" of the Gentiles was not yet!
 5. For this mother to receive deliverance for her child, Jesus had to reach forward for a new season—at least 10 years into the future when the gospel would be delivered to Cornelius' household (Acts, Chapter 10).

H. Life Application Points:

1. How to change your season:
 - a. Change your mind!
 - b. Change your heart!
 - c. Change your attitude!
 - d. Change your actions!