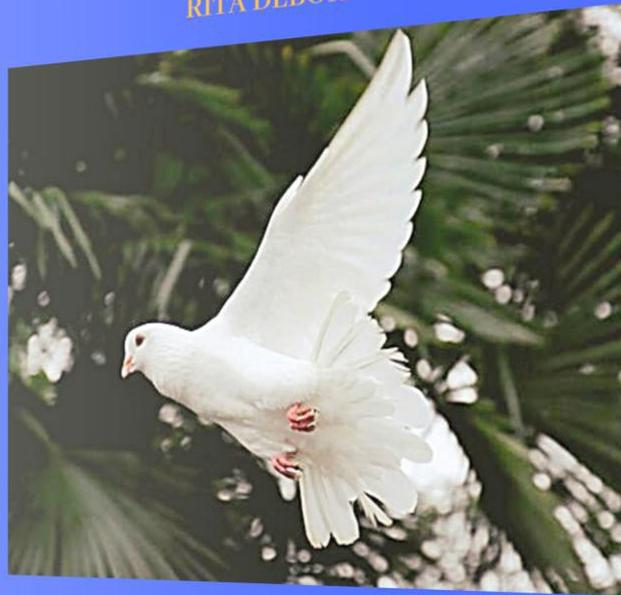


A KNOWLEDGE YOU SHOULD NOT ESCAPE

RITA DEBORAH



UNDERSTANDING <sup>THE</sup>  
AND TIMES  
SEASONS <sup>OF</sup>  
CHRISTIAN FAITH

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# DEDICATION

TO ALMIGHTY GOD WHO GUARDED  
ME WHILE LIFE THOUGHT ME LESSONS.

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CARRIER

A KNOWLEDGE YOU SHOULD NOT ESCAPE

RITA DEBORAH



UNDERSTANDING THE  
AND TIMES  
SEASONS OF  
CHRISTIAN FAITH

## CHAPTER ONE

Time is defined in the oxford dictionary as a period in history connected with particular experiences or events in people's life. It has several meaning in the oxford dictionary. In English mini dictionary, it is defined as the continuing progress of existence and events in the past, present and future.

It is also defined as the instance of something happening or being done.

Season is a period of the year when a particular activity takes place. It is also defined as each of the four divisions of the year marked by different but particular weather and daylight hours.

As Christians, there are different things that happen to us as we live our life. As a result, one finds oneself questioning himself or herself, other people, circumstances and even God. Often, there may be no answers to such questions. All that we encounter in life can be viewed as events of particular time or a particular season.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 we are harkened by Paul to pray without ceasing. This advice will have more meaning if we understand that there are different issues that affect our life. These issues usually occur at a particular point in one's life, that is for a period of time. But when it happens severally over a period of time it becomes a season.

Going through the story of creation in the first chapter of Genesis, one can realize that God created everything just by speaking the word but for man, He said, "let us create man in our image, after our likeness". This shows that God created man to be like him. He gave man dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, cattle, over all the earth and all that has to do with the earth. He gave man dominion just as He (God) has dominion over life and death and every other being or beast. God has dominion over everything known and unknown. The totality of humanity was embedded in Adam and Eve – the first parents through whom many generations have come to be.

# STORY OF ADAM

When God created Adam, he was made a friend to God. God always came down to be with him. God realized that Adam needed a companion; therefore He put Adam in deep sleep and took a rib from his ribs to make him a companion-woman. Then Adam awoke and was excited with the sight of Eve, he named her woman.

## THE LESSON

Adam knew God could provide for him all he needed. He relied on God for what he needed. He had a longing for a companion, God knowing his need provided him what he needed. Adam knew God as a provider and he provided for him. God's love for us is more than we can ever understand. All we can do is to forget our needs with him and he will handle it his way. Eve is a miracle for Adam. Therefore God can provide your need when you abandon it to him.

We are created in the image and likeness of God. If we are of no importance to God, we will not have been created by Him; neither will he bother himself sending Jesus Christ to redeem us or the Holy Spirit to be with us as comforter. This

shows the magnitude of his love for us. He loved us; he still loves us and will always love us. No matter the sin we commit, he is always ready to forgive us when we come back to him in a contrite heart. Since he is for us, why do we burden ourselves with worries and struggles when he is there to carry the loads of life for us? Therefore ask and it will be given. But in asking, you must ask in faith trusting God as child would trust his parents to provide for him.

Though God created man in his image and likeness, there is a major difference between God and man, which is that man is limited to times, while God is not. Since man is limited by time, there is season which has its simplest meaning as 'over a period of time'.

According to good news bible, Ecclesiastics 3:1-8 says;

“Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for tearing down and the time for building up. He sets the time for

sorrow and the time for joy, the time for mourning and the time for dancing, the time to love and the time to hate.....”.

This passage of the bible shows us how everything we do is controlled by time. Apart from time, there is another factor that really has a hold on human beings. This factor is referred to as spirituality that is your relationship with God. He manifested his love for humanity through various means and still does. For instance He called Abraham, God had a relationship with Abraham and through the blessings God showed to him, he became the father of faith and today we have Abraham blessings. Abraham was not just a true worshiper of God; he was also a friend to God. He knew and trusted God so well. God created us to know him and to be true worshipers of His. He longs for those that will worship him in spirit and in truth. He wants all our love in return that is why He is a jealous God. He loves humanity so well that He gave His only begotten son, to pay the ransom for our sins. This is why when you hunger and thirst for God, and hand over your life to him, He takes over and pilots your life.

The daily walk with God can be divided into three stages.

These stages are the levels of Christian growth of faith.

## THE MILKY STAGE

At this stage a person is still a baby before God. In this you study the bible, pray to God, do the much you can as a Christian.

One unique character of this stage is that you pray and God answers immediately. He gives you whatever you ask for as far as it does not lead you astray. Just as a mother will breastfeed her tender child even before it cries. By answering you immediately when you pray, God makes you to know him more. You are satisfied whenever you ask him, for you know he will answer. As this happens, your faith begins to soar high, your knowledge of God expands, and you begin to trust in God.

## THE BONY STAGE

As you start growing in God's love. All of a sudden, you realize that the answer is not as fast as it was before. You then begin to wait on God. He makes your faith and trust in him grow even much further. He does not let you give up on him. In the past, you have read your bible and known him to be faithful; you have known him to be a just God, a merciful God.

There are so many things that interplay in this stage. The most important point is that you don't give up on God. You should remain steadfast in waiting on Him because He does not fail. At this point there is no need letting in doubt, or fear because when they set in, your faith in God begins to diminish or shake. For if your faith begins to shake, the likelihood of falling into the enemy's trap whose mission is to steal, to kill and destroy increases. The enemy of Christ would not want to let you go free, when a person falls out of faith; he tends to do things on his own without relying on God. This creates distraction within the person's spirit. The person thinks he can do it all by himself and seeks a way to get it done.

Further still, these create a distance between you and God. By your own judgment you might not realize things are going wrong, until all of a sudden, it hits you real hard. Then you realize you are nowhere and are not yet about to crumble.

But God is always a merciful God and will always accept you whenever you come back to him with contrite heart. Most Christians remain at the bony stage and never make it to the third stage.

## THE STONY STAGE

In this stage you find yourself experiencing things that ordinarily you cannot bear. But you realize you pass through such situation and become stronger than you were before.

May I remind you that you did not make it through by your abilities alone. It was done or achieved by Gods' grace. This is where the scripture is fulfilled that Gods grace is enough for you, so by His grace you made it through.

When you pass through the second stage to the third stage successfully, you will realize that to live a good life, worthy of emulation is but God alone. You have to let him live your life by allowing him to pilot the affairs of your life. No longer you acting but God acting always through you. At this stage you are surprised at the kind of issues that come your way and more surprised that the storm gets calmed. God permits trials and at the end of each trial, you reap more virtues and better characters, which take you to higher grounds – your destiny. Those who learn from you are not led astray. You learn that God's ways cannot be understood by mere human understanding, how you constantly need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The more you seek out to explain to yourself how God accomplishes his will in your life, the more mysterious the whole issue becomes to you. Then you are filled with the awe of his glory. But you still need to be careful because, the enemy is roaming like a roaring lion seeking whom to devour. No matter the level of your spirituality or relationship with God, the enemy is always seeking out for an opportunity to devour any Christian who

goes astray. It is only by returning to God and by God's help that you can overcome your adversary.

Job in the bible can be seen as an example of a believer, who made it through the stony stage. The enemy devoured Job, but yet he waited patiently on God without access to the psalmist and the new testament as we do today.

There are times too, when situations of life take a left turn, and you wonder if God is still with you. The silence you get within your spirit is so much that you feel God is angry about something you may have done wrong. A lot of things play in your mind. At such times, do not let the enemy deceive you that God is far. If you can be still and know and believe him to be God, you will realize his peace is dwelling within you, that peace that surpasses all human understanding. If you can be calm enough, you will realize that God was not far from you, and is not far from you.

But rather in despair, you put yourself far from God. You closed your ears, so you could not hear him. You closed your eyes so you could not see him. And the most painful part, you

closed your mind; therefore you were not able to connect to him, with him and in him.

At other times, instead of praying for so long you find yourself dialoguing with the spirit of God. When you get on your knees to pray, you hear him speak to you, telling you what to do concerning a situation, and the best way to go about the situation. This is because in him, you are connected, there is no form of self righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ. By his mercy you are connected to him and by his grace, you are connected with him.

He reveals a situation that is to come to you, and gives you the solution to the problem even before it happens.

At this stage, a relationship is established between you and God. One essential ingredient in relationship with God is that there is always a covenant.

## **TYPES OF COVENANT**

There are two types of covenant in relationship with God.

The first type is that in which the object of covenant is brought by God. This type of covenant runs for a long time. It can run from generation to generation. It hardly fails, because God is the front runner of such covenants. Most times, when the person who has such covenant with God does not keep to the terms of the covenant, problems set in. When you pray to God with the covenant as a contact point with God, the answer comes much faster, than when you don't pray from the point of covenant.

Example of such covenant is that between God and Abraham. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac to him. God, seeing that Abraham was willing to kill his son and offer him up as a sacrifice asked him not to kill his son, Isaac. God further asked Abraham to use the lamb he has provided for the sacrifice. Today we have Abrahamic blessings which wells forth from that covenant. It a dividend of the covenant enjoyed by all Christians who knows his rights as a child of God.

Another powerful example is the sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. In this sacrifice, Jesus Christ offered himself as a living sacrifice for the atonement of all sins committed by humanity. This covenant is over 2000 years. This is the most powerful covenant ever known. And as such every Christian or believer in Jesus Christ connects to it, reaping a lot of benefits both spiritual and material.

The Second type of covenant is a covenant you propose to God yourself. For instance you pray to God telling him that from this time onwards, you will always do this or from this time onwards, you will never do that as a sign of covenant with him.

Hannah had such covenant with God. She prayed to God to give her a son, and she promised she would give the son – Samuel back to God. Hannah eventually did, and God rewarded her with more children.

This covenant is strong. Problems set in only when you start doing what you said you will not do again or when you stop doing what you said you will do.

The problems arise because the object of covenant is broken. If you repent and come back to God, he will accept you back. Example of this is when one in prayer tells God that he or she will not eat red meat again all the rest of his/her life. There is nothing wrong with eating red meat or anything prepared with red meat. What matters here is that you have chosen to sacrifice eating red meat all the days of your life. As such when you pray to God, He uses you in very mighty ways in which you yourself may not be able to understand. When the object of this kind of covenant is broken over and over again a new one is required to replace it.

The first type of covenant is last longer and highly effective because it first starts with God and ends with God. As such the object of covenant is never broken. Rather when you fall out of the covenant, all you have to do is to come back to God by way of broken contrite heart. God does not despise his own. We all belong to God.

The second type of covenant is also good, it is very effective as well as long as you do not break it. An example of a

person who had such covenant with God was Samson. Samson was a covenant child. The source of his victory in God was that his hair must not be cut. Immediately he hair was cut by Delilah, he lost his strength to win victories. He lost because his point of contact with God has been broken. Therefore he was captured. So is it in our lives, once you break your point of contact with God, you loose your strength in God, therefore the enemy comes in to play prangs with your life. Remember, whoever breaks the hedge, the serpent will bite.

The case of job is entirely different because, God bragged about Job to Satan saying, “ Have you seen my servant Job”? Satan answered, “It is because of the blessings you gave him” Therefore to prove Satan wrong, God permitted him to tempt Job, but warned him not to touch his life.

This type of covenant trains one in spiritual and self discipline. You only have to be steadfast on your part, and things will keep flowing. The problem is not in falling. It does not matter how many times you fall, what matters most is

that you rise up again. But you can ask God for the grace, never to break your object of covenant with him

Every Christian born of the spirit of God, apart from the first type of covenant, should Endeavour to have the second type of covenant which he/she practices consciously or unconsciously, since you are the one who initiates the covenant with God. What matters most is that you must keep to your object of covenant for God's part to keep flowing.

The first type of covenant can only be initiated by God, and he gives it to whomever he chooses. The choice is for God and for God alone. You cannot by own initiate such covenant with God. If he chooses you to have such a covenant with him, he will give you the grace that will carry you through it all, because he is the first runner of such covenant. It runs for generation to generation and can never be broken as long as the terms of the covenant are kept to by the generation.

One can have both types of covenant actively running in one's life. Most times the problem is not having a good relationship with God; the problem is maintaining a good

relationship with God. You have to diligently keep to this relationship so that you do not get weak on your own part because God will always keep to his own part of the covenant. Whenever sin comes up, your relationship with God shakes it off. Therefore always ask God for forgiveness both known and for unknown sins.

The enemy is always roaring like a lion looking for whom to devour, as the scripture says. Do not let the enemy get hold of your relationship with God, because the enemy only knows how to destroy.

The enemy uses a lot of strategies hidden and obvious to see to it that the true worshiper of God fall out of faith. Such strategies include: temptation (In this he comes in different forms at any moment but you can guarded by grace, by praying to God for guidance and protection constantly), false messages and dreams, he can even use the bible to tempt you. The enemy also uses the spoken words, power, food, wealth, influence, sex, fear, doubt and humans to tempt. The tactics of the enemy are numerous but know that God does

not abandon his own. One thing you must do is to never lose focus, because when you do, you fall into his trap without knowing. You might think you are with God, not knowing you have parted from God. Remain focused on God; stand by God no matter what happens. Never permit your faith in God to shake. Faith in God is the key thing. Put all your eggs in Gods basket. If you are open to God, you will not be lost no matter what happens. Remain steadfast in God.

# CHAPTER TWO

## THE PURPOSE OF TIME

Everything about humanity is controlled by time. There will be a time when you will give account of all you have done while alive. After death, come judgments. For this sole reason, time has a purpose which is for every individual to make good use of all the experience you get in life.

If you look through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. You will notice that Jesus Christ always used the phrase “a time shall come when”, this is an indication that everything has a set time for it to manifest. That is why we talk of chance. Some of the things Jesus Christ spoke of have happened; some are still repeating, while others are yet to happen. He referred to time when He mentioned about his death.

# THE REASON FOR SEASON

Just like there are wet seasons and dry seasons, for those of us in tropical regions, so there are seasons when certain things happen in life. When I talk of seasons I mean those periods in time when particular things happen over and over again.

In the Christian life, there are periods when certain things occur. It only takes wisdom to know that such things are happening and Gods divine grace to know why they are happening. Then wisdom again to know how to control such situations so that they don't get out of hand.

## MAJOR SEASONS OF CHRISTAIN LIFE

Have you ever heard a person mention the phrase "living the Christian life"? You hear such phrase because; there are certain things that will come your way as a Christian which should be an object of growth for you. I will mention the

major seasons that affect the Christian life and give little explanation on them. The major seasons that affect a Christian life include:

The seasons of faith

The seasons of patience and trials

The seasons of prayer

The seasons of forgiveness

Every other season depends on the above mentioned seasons

They include:

The seasons of fear

The season of doubt

The seasons of breakthrough

The time of transition (growth)

The time to come back to God

The time for judgment.

Faith is the act of believing in things (promises of God) that are yet unseen. It is that ability to be certain of things you hope for. It is the firm believes that what you request of WILL be done by God.

Praying is the act of communicating with God, thanking him for his numerous blessings and favors, asking for needs and forgiveness.

Trial is a period of test, when you pass through various challenging situations. You find yourself wondering why? Where is God? What have I done wrong? How is this repeating?

Doubt is an occasion when you don't really believe and are not sure of something with regards to God. It is an unstable spiritual state.

Perseverance is the situation where the road is not smooth, yet you continue to strive.

Patience is when you accept delays and struggles in good faith without being bitter.

Breakthrough is the period of prolonged success after a period of trial

Transformation is a period of complete radical changes, all for good.

Transition is the change from one nature to another. Simply growth by application of learnt lessons.

## A SEASON TO KNOW AND TRUST GOD

In this season what happens is that a person has a deep hunger and thirst for God. There is this deep longing to know if really God is God. As such, the fellow experiencing this comes to church, the fellow pays an unwavering attention to the word of God as it is read and preached. There is this longing to experience God in one's life. When you turn through the passages of the bible you read them especially the parts of the scripture where God manifested himself. In the persons mind, questions about what God can do keep

popping up. You just want to experience God in your life. As this continues to happen, a Godly foundation is being laid in the soul. As the person begins to read the bible, listens to the word of God and shares other people experiences, the fellow begins to know more about God and trust him. As the person further experiences God's blessings, the trust in God becomes deeper, and a relationship is cultivated with God.

WATCH WORD: KNOW AND TRUST GOD

SEASONS OF FAITH.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1(revised standard version)

As a Christian, you must have heard the word faith. Faith is a gift from God which comes by hearing or reading the word of God. As one reads or listens over and over again about God. Faith is the contact point if you are to obtain anything from God. "If you have faith as small a mustard seed ....". This show how very important faith is in the Christian life. When a person listens to or reads the word of God and thinks

deeply about it, the resultant is faith. But one cannot achieve this without the presence of the Holy Spirit of God in one's life.

In this season, there is faith in God, you always feel the presence of God as if he is very close. There are always answers to prayer, here there is conviction. It is important to note that it is impossible to please God without faith. For in Romans 3:28 (Good news bible) "A person is put right with God only through faith, not by doing what the law commands). This means that faith is very necessary if we are to please God. One reason why Abraham is called the father of faith is because he had a very strong faith in God. He was very faithful to God. Imagine this, God called Abraham in Genesis chapter 12; and told him to leave his s father and relatives to go to a place he will show him. He was seventy-five year seventy-five years old then. If you are called by God to follow suite, how would you react to the call.

When you go through the bible, all which really affected and changed life's had an attitude of faith, though at times they were regarded as being foolish. Example: the case of Noah.

Faith is not foolishness; rather it is a point of connection with God. Without faith, you cannot please God, even when you have a good work. Without faith, your prayers cannot be answered, without faith in God, you will always feel insecure, and without faith in God you will be in doubt. Without faith in God you will feel distanced, without faith in God you cannot climb the mountains of life, without faith in God, life will be difficult. Without faith in God you will experience delay. The importance of faith can never be ruled out, therefore cultivate the attitude of faith. Faith is the key to success when walking to God. It can be likened to money with which one can purchase a commodity.

It is not just about having faith in God, for faith without work is dead. James 2:17 (revised standard edition) tells us that faith by itself without work is dead. Therefore attach work to your faith. Act by faith. When you pray believing that what

you ask God for is already done by God for you. Take the step you ought to take by faith, and then God will play his part. With faith in God and faith in us that God can walk through us, all which seem impossible will be made possible.

WATCH WORD: FAITH IN GOD, FAITH IN YOURSELF

### SEASON OF PATIENCE / TRAIL

Patience can be defined as the ability to accept delay or trouble calmly without strife or complain. Galatians 5:22 (good news bible) tells us the (Holy) spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

There is a phrase I commonly hear which is “be patient with God”. Do not be in a haste to obtain answers from God. When trials come, they are not there to make one lose faith in God. They come to strengthen ones faith in God and ourselves. If you have this always at the back of your mind, you will not lack trust in God neither will you lose faith in God. God does not promise a journey without turbulence rather He assures

us of safe landing. Being patient with God means instead of complaining, asking God questions, accusing God of your problems etc, call God into the situation through prayer, but faith - you must pray with faith.

Most times, when ugly situations raise their head, Satan threatens us more by magnifying these problems in our mind and painting the pictures of the ugly situations over and over again in our mind. This makes a person cry more and even raises doubt in the mind. If you can hold yourself together, you will see that God is in that situation with you. Learn to look to God. Hand over the situation to God and trust Him to take care of the situations.

Hand it over to God and get your mind off it, forget the problem with God. Do not let it come up in your mind again. When it comes up, replace it with a pleasant memory. Trust God to be faithful. There is an undisputable example of a man in the bible, Job. Job lost all he had during his period of trial. But at the end God restores all and even more. Job was advised to curse God but he refused. God was proud of Job's

righteousness and Satan said Job was righteous because God blessed him abundantly. Therefore God permitted Satan to tempt and try Job, but He warned Satan not to touch his life. Satan tried and tried but did not succeed.

When temptations and trials come, do not give up rather have an infallible faith and trust in God. Prove to Satan that your commitment to God is not based on his blessings and circumstances, instead of crying and complaining to God, praise and thank God for that troubling situation, wait on God to fulfill his words manifest in your life and you will be surprised at what God can do for you.

**WATCH WORD: BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF, BE PATIENT WITH GOD, BE PATIENT WITH YOUR SITUATION.**

## **SEASONS OF PRAYER**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 admonishes us to pray without ceasing. It is always a necessity to pray to God, for one's self and for other people who may or may not be related to us. Praying avails us of the opportunity to commune with God.

Praying develops are relationship with God. When you commune with God He directs your path. Pray at all time means pray in good and bad conditions as well. This is the point most people miss. They only pray when they find themselves in bad conditions. When things are alright, they forget to pray to God. Learn from our lord Jesus Christ, who prayed all the time, yes He was not an ordinary human being. He was God in form of Man. But then, He always prayed. All through His ministry He prayed, while He hung on the cross He prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". When praying one should always pray with faith without doubting, for through faith in God you can move mountains.

The problems in the world today exist because no one has taken time to come to God in prayer specifically concerning them.. God is aware of our problems because He is our creator but He expects us to come to Him in prayers.

There are different forms of prayer, verbal prayer in which one prays silently or loudly, fasting : there are different

forms of fasting; 24 hours fasting [2 samuel1:12], 10 days fasting [acts1: 3-6], 14 days fasting [acts27:33], 21 days fasting [Daniel 10: 2, 12-13], 3 days fasting[Esther4:16], 40 days fasting[Deuteronomy9: 9-18, Matthew 4:2]), some even as the spirit of God directs. Aside from this, other forms of prayers are mental or meditative prayer (focusing one's mind on and thinking of the word of God). You can also combine different forms of prayer if you choose. Even singing is a form of prayer, for he who sings well prays twice. You can never underestimate the power of prayers. If you pray only when you are in need then you have not prayed enough.

The season of prayer is a season that should not be ignored. It should and must be continues just like the sun will always shine. Praying to God always makes you operate on kingdom principles. Praying to God always, safes you from known and unknown dangers. Praying to God clears the way for you. Praying to God always brings about revelations and helps a lot in periods of trials. Praying to God calms the spirit of Man. Hand over to God everything in prayer, even things

that may appear irrelevant. Pray with without ceasing. Pray with faith.

Pray at all times for yourself, for others, and for the world at large. Trust God to be faithful and attach work to faith when you pray

**WATCH WORD: PRAY AT ALL TIMES**

## **SEASONS OF FORGIVENESS**

Forgiveness is one thing we forget to do, especially that aspect of forgiving others. Remember, forgiving yourself does not mean justifying your actions. Do you know that forgiving others will save you a lot of unnecessary headaches and junks of problems? By junks of problems I mean problems which are unhealthy for the mind. These unhealthy thoughts lead to doubt, worry, fear, anger etc. It stops us from receiving good things, it suffocates and cuts us off from people. Remember the story of the unforgiving servant, who refused to forgive his fellow servant, and what happened to him afterwards.(Mathew 18: 23-35). He

refused therefore the king took away from him the forgiveness He had already given him. The thirty-fifth verse says, "So my father will do to anyone of you who do not forgive his brother from his heart". Forgiveness is very important if you are to enjoy the abundance of God's blessings.

Psychologically, it is necessary to forgive as it eliminates lots of ill-health. Unforgiveness acts like a block. It cuts one off from getting the good things about life. It prevents one from enjoying the beauty and riches of living.. It makes life miserable.

It was the Unforgiveness of the unforgiving servant that made him lose the mercy already granted him, not only that he was also imprisoned. Learn to forgive others. Also learn to forgive yourself. Yes, I agree that it is not easy, but if you ask God for the grace to always forgive, He will grant you that which you have asked for.

**WATCH WORD: FORGIVE OTHERS BEFORE YOU ASK GOD TO**

**FORGIVE YOUR SINS.**

# CHAPTER THREE

## HOW THE MAJOR SEASONS OF CHRISTAIN LIFE INTERPLAY WITH EACH OTHER.

The seasons of the Christian life depend on each other and are all necessary in our daily life as Christians. How one makes use of them, determines how good or bad the life experience may be for one.

Ephesians 6: 12 tell us that our battle is not against human forces but against the rulers and authorities and their dark powers that govern the world.

In as much as we live our life and go about our business, there is a realm that affects us in the physical realm, which is the spiritual realm. This is why Ephesians 6:12 tells us that our battle is not against human forces but against the rulers and authorities and their dark powers that govern this world. We struggle against the spiritual forces of evil. If this were not so, Jesus Christ would not have come to redeem us. In this battle, everyone is involved but one cannot fight the

good fight without the active participation of God. All through the battle God trains us and makes us to be like Him through the temptations and trials that come our way. For one to fight this fight effectively there must be a proper understanding of how we work with God. It all starts when one dedicates or gives one's life to Jesus Christ, and decides to live for God alone, not for yourself or the cares of life or someone. This is the first step to fight the good fight. When Jesus Christ comes in, He nurtures us in every ramification. When you give your life to Christ Jesus, you receive the Holy Spirit the comforter.

There are times when a person will feel the presence of God so much, at such moment, the person is sure that God is not far. There is usually an upsurge of faith, everything seems to move well. It happens whether you live in accordance to God word or not.

In these seasons, God nurtures His children to believe and trust in Him. When we fall, we ask God to forgive and receive us back. Also, at times we do not ask but He answers.

A common temptation in all seasons of the Christian faith is that a person's focus tends to shift from God to the goodies of life. As such, people focus mainly on themselves and what they want to gain.

Just as one season leads to another, these seasons of Christian life ushers each other. Using the seasons of trial as an instance: Ugly situations are experienced, with issues getting so bad the person experiencing all that wishes to die and starts making attempts what appears to be the only solution. Some stop at thoughts alone and correct themselves, while others make such thoughts an action. This is a very sensitive season, for what a person decides determines the outcome of the person's Christian life. Here two major crossroads are faced, which is to seek God or go on all alone without God. Remember a life without God is filled with regrets. If one chooses God, there is reconciliation between the fellow and God, with one drawing nearer to God. Per adventure, if one decides to seek the pleasures of life, a lot of temptations come in, letting the enemy into one's life. A very expensive prize is paid, which is the person tends

to become a lost soul and wonders through life not knowing. The person is not consciously aware of what is going on. This is why the bible, poses this question to us all, that, “what shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and loose his soul”. The enemy uses the pleasures of life that fall into the categories of food, wealth, power, popularity to lure souls in several ways and times. The fact and truth about this is that with God in one’s life, one can have all these riches and pleasures without losing one’s soul. This is why the bible tells us to, ‘seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and every other thing will be added unto it”, for this reason too, “one with God is majority”.

The problem with seeking the pleasures and riches without seeking God is that there is always this emptiness. The more one tries to fill this emptiness by oneself the more the emptiness widens. The fortunate thing about this emptiness is that God comes after us if we let Him and is willing to receive us back as we return to Him. God being a loving Father can always do this for us a thousand and one times.

During the periods of seasons of trials, ones faith in God is deepen and strengthened. The depth and strength of one's faith can be so powerful that in the face of trials and temptation one appears to be unmoved by the circumstances of life, and patiently resolves to wait on God. In as much as the fellow is unmoved and believes strongly in God, the fellow is to pray because if one relaxes without praying, one will be kept miserable by the enemy. In this case, the soul though, not lost is kept in spiritual darkness. This is why the bible admonishes us to ask, seek and knock in Matthew 7: 7-

8. When one relaxes without asking God, seeking for God, and knocking on Gods door, one thing leads to another, creating to doubt. When doubt arises, it questions the existence of God in one's life journey; one may be led astray to think that God is not there at all. But in all truth, God is waiting for your invitation as recorded in Revelation 3: 20. Inviting God into one's life is a must play rule if one is to conquer the rulers and authorities of this world, and their dark powers that govern the world. The battle is of God. Unless the fellow invites God to take over the miserable

conditions the fellow is experiencing, the miserable conditions only increases and further, makes one doubt the presence of God in one's life.

When one, triumphs over the trials and temptations, there is greater faith in God, greater trust in God, leading to greater confidence in God and oneself.

In the seasons of prayer, the bible instructs us to pray without ceasing. Praying in its simplest meaning is discussing with God. There are two forms of discursion: passive discursion in which one person speaks and the other listens attentively and active discursion in which both listens and talk as well. This is the best form of communication.

Is your discursion (prayer) with God active or passive? Do you just pray and go your way or do you pray and listen to what God has to tell you through the promptings of the Holy Spirit. It is better to pray and listen to what God has to say through the prompting of God.

Form the habit of listening to clear promptings of God.

Prayer deepens our relationship with God and keeps us connected to God all the time. When there is a disconnection between a person and God, the person feels like God is not there, while God is there waiting for us to play our own part of the connection.

When praying, it is very important to pray for your enemies and those who make things difficult for you or those you don't like. For by so doing, you free yourself from Satan's accusation before God. Thus, there will be no need for delays to your prayer request. There are various forms of prayer. It is very wrong to pray without faith in God, for with faith one can move mountains and it is impossible to please God without faith. Therefore if you do not have faith, ask God to give you some, and He will give you.

Having faith in God, in the seasons of trials, the faith given to us by God is put to test. For just as gold is tested by fire to be purified, so is one's faith tested to see how much it can endure. Being that the totality of humans are created in the image and likeness of God, He prunes us that we may be

more like Him. Parents of course discipline their children when they misbehave, so does God discipline us through temptation and trials. By our persistence to overcome the temptations and trials that come our way, we aim to be strong in integrity, faith, will, grace, morality, and so many other benefits. If He did not love us as His children to discipline us, He won't bother himself about us. Just as gold is purified by fire, so are temptations and trials the fire through which God purifies His own. The hotter the fire, the purer the gold, therefore the harder the trial and temptation, the purer and stronger we can be when we overcome the temptation. For we are created not perfect but aiming for perfection.

There comes a time in life when there seems to be a blockage, leading one to question the situations and circumstances. This blockage at times is caused by unforgiving sins. Unforgiveness creates a barrier between God and man. Also Unforgiveness leads to multitudes of sin. Often we ask God for forgiveness but we fail to forgive our fellow men. It is this way because what you sow is what you

reap. Therefore sooner than later life gives you back what you are giving out. The Unforgiveness we hold against ourselves, God and our fellow men forms a barrier (blockage) against us.

The season of forgiveness is a season we must forgive without exception not minding what may have happened. For in forgiving others, we obtain forgiveness from God. When you find yourself holding things against God, know it is time to forgive yourself of your failures.

Therefore our prayer should be “forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us”. Forgiveness cleans the mind, body and soul. It releases us from the manipulations of the enemy, for when we forgive everyone including ourselves and stop holding our problems against God, the enemy will have no means to torment or accuse us.

All these seasons move in circle and gradually, one is brought to the season to know and trust God. Christianity is not all about having faith but also about being practical in

being Christ like, knowing and trusting God at all times. This is why God wants us to fellowship with him as friends, for cut off from him we can do nothing.

# GOD THE CENTER OF IT ALL

Without God, we can do nothing. God is the center of it all. All the lessons we learn in life are for the purpose of bringing us closer to God that is the reason for the times and the seasons of the Christian life.

When you leave your life with Christ, it is easier to go through the turbulence of life than when one chooses to go without Christ. This makes a lot of difference. When you live your life practicing the word of God and believing God, you will discover that indeed when you focus on the capabilities of God and concentrate on God, all other good things of life are added unto it.

These major seasons of Christian life occur even without one being aware that it is already happening. When you understand this, you will see that there is no need to panic, for when you panic you begin to doubt. Doubt over comes those who isolates themselves from other believers of the word of God.

God created us in His image and likeness. Even in the Garden of Eden; He always came down in the evening to be with Adam. That is a sign of friendship. Enoch was taken straight to heaven instead of experiencing death. Pause awhile and think about it, could that have been if Enoch was not in constant fellowship with God. God longs to be friends with him, that is why He created us and is always willing to fellowship with us. We need God, God needs us as well.

Why don't you decide today to connect to God and concentrate on Him, instead on what you seek in life? You will notice life from a different perspective.

In all things, do well for the sake of God alone, it makes a big difference.

**REMAIN BLESSED.**