



Sunday June 09, 2019
Receiving God's Guidance
Part-5 : Times and Seasons, and Circumstances

REVIEW

In this series, we are covering:

(1)The Word, (2)The inner witness of His Spirit, (3)The voice of the Holy Spirit, (4)Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (5)Dreams and visions, (6)Prophecies, (7)Angels, (8)Godly counsel, (9)The renewed mind, **(10)Times and seasons, (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations.**

TODAY

Will continue from where we left and cover the last two ways we receive God's guidance : **(10)Times and seasons, (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations.**

We must keep in mind the Primary ways and the Secondary ways.
We call them Secondary, because these have to tested and weighed against the Primary, to ensure validity.

<u>Primary Means</u>	<u>Secondary Means</u>
(1)The Word, (2)The inner witness of His Spirit (3)The voice of the Holy Spirit	(4)Gifts of the Holy Spirit (5)Dreams and visions (6)Prophecies (7)Angels (8)Godly counsel (9)The renewed mind (10)Times and seasons (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations

10. TIMES AND SEASONS

Ecclesiastes 3:1,11

1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Daniel 2:21

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.



Our God is a God of plan, order and design. God does not work arbitrarily or randomly. God works with a plan. He unfolds His plans in their appointed time. Time is a frame of reference that we work with. For us we have past, present and future. God lives outside of time. God lives in the eternal now. He is the great "I AM". He is always in the now. When God works in our realm, He unfolds things according to the '*kairos*' time, which is the right time, the best moment in time (in our frame of reference) for something that God desires to happen.

God often speaks to us about things in our lives ahead of time. He then prepares us over time ('*chronos*', passage of time, duration or length of time) bringing us to the '*kairos*' moment when He begins to unfold what He spoke to us about. For instance, God spoke in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:15 about sending the Seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent. It was about 4000 years later that Jesus Christ came into this world. Why was there such a long wait? The only reason the Scriptures point us to is that God sent His Son in the "fullness of time (Greek '*chronos*')" (Galatians 4:4). When the full measure of chronological time had run through and brought us into the '*kairos*' moment, then God sent His Son.

We see God working similarly in other instances. When the '*chronos*' had run its full course, so that the 400 year time ('*chronos*') period that God spoke of was complete (Acts 7:17), at this time ('*kairos*', Acts 7:20), Moses was born.

Our times (Hebrew '*ayth*') referring to "the when", and the "now moments", are in His hands (Psalm 31:15). Understanding this aspect of God's ways is very important to know what God wants us to do. This helps us receive His guidance correctly.

God wants us to be a discerning people - a people who understand times and seasons from His perspective and then act accordingly. Consider these Scriptures:

1 Chronicles 12:32

of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Like the sons of Issachar, when we understand times and seasons, we will know what we are supposed to do. Hence, in receiving God's guidance, we must pay attention to the times and seasons God has appointed for us.

Ecclesiastes 8:5-6

5 He who keeps his (the king's or leader's) command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment,

6 Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly.



Think about what these Scriptures are stating: wise people know the right time to do things, because for everything, there is a right time and a right way to it.

Even if we do the right thing, but if we do it at the wrong time, we could get into trouble. For instance, think about marriage. Marriage is a good thing, designed and ordained by God. But if a young person barely out of school/college, without a job, no means of livelihood, not mature, etc. "falls in love" and decides to get married, it can cause a lot of trouble. A good thing, done at the wrong time can still cause problems.

As we journey through life and seek God's guidance, we must keep in mind that God wants us to walk with understanding of His times and seasons for our lives.

So we must look to God, not only for what He would want us to do, but also when He would want us to do something. We must prepare ourselves and wait for the right (opportune) time to step into it.

There are many ways through which God will reveal the right time to us. This may come to us through one of the earlier methods (ways) we have discussed, e.g. the Scripture, through an inner witness or the inner voice of the Holy Spirit, etc. There are times we recognize the circumstances - the signs of the times - and then understand that the right time has come.

Let's consider a practical example:

Let's say you are a college student and that there is a stirring in your heart to start a business, in a certain industry. As you pray about this and ask for God's guidance, you look for what He is speaking in all of the ways (methods) we have covered so far. God may put in your heart to get trained and equipped for this. So you do your necessary studies. While you may feel the burning passion to launch the business, you feel the time is not yet, and you sense God directing you to work in an organization so that you develop additional skills, build networks, and so on. So all along, God is taking you through the '*chronos*', which serves as your time of preparation, and He is bringing you to the '*kairos*', the right time to launch the business idea. So after these years of incubating your business-idea, you feel the time is right. You are ready and prepared, intellectually, emotionally, financially, professionally to launch the business. Also, at the '*kairos*' moment, God orchestrates things (more on this in the next chapter). He may bring in people who are ready to partner with you. He may bring people who are ready to invest in your business idea. All these things "suddenly" come together at the '*kairos*' moment. So now you know God is guiding you to launch the business, which you have been carrying inside you for several years. Understanding God's times and seasons for your life will help you discern and receive His guidance and direction. [Please note: that this



example is just to illustrate one of the many ways, and not the only way, that God could lead someone to start a business].

Personal testimony - December 2000 - Fulfilling The Desire To Start A Company

Jesus Walked In Step And In Time With The Father

To help us understand the importance of times and seasons, we look at how the Lord Jesus lived His earthly life, as He walked in obedience to the Father. We have several instances where we are explicitly told that Jesus was paying attention to the Father's timings. If Jesus did so, so must we.

[Pastors, please just make reference to the content of the Scriptures. No need to read the verses.]

In the launching of His miracle ministry:

John 2:4

Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

In going to Jerusalem:

John 7:6,8

6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.

8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."

In the raising of Lazarus:

John 11:5-6

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

In going to the Cross:

John 12:23,27

23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

In bringing truth and revelation to His disciples:

John 16:4

But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. "And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.



John 16:25

"These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.

In knowing the time of His crucifixion and glorification:

John 16:32

Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

John 17:1

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

Ask "Is This The Right Time?"

Understanding God's times and seasons for your life will help you receive His guidance and follow Him through various seasons of life.

In making decisions, one of the questions we should ask ourselves is, "Is this the correct time and season to do this?". The answer to that question will help you receive His guidance.

11. CIRCUMSTANCES AND DIVINE ORCHESTRATIONS

The final method or way that we will be considering, through which we receive God's guidance is by recognizing what He is orchestrating in our circumstances and life situations.

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him...

God exerts His power on our behalf. One of the areas in which God does this is in our circumstances and life situations, where He divinely orchestrates things for us. This could be unusual doors of opportunity, favor and access to people, new contracts, and many other things that God can cause in our life circumstances. When God does such things, no one can prevent Him or stop Him. The most amazing things, literally, what eyes have not seen, what ears have not heard, what people have never imagined, such things take place in our life situations.

Job 42:2

I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.



Revelation 3:7

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS':"

So we need to be attentive to divine orchestrations happening in our life situations and respond correctly.

For example, as you are praying about your professional career, and asking God for direction, you do your part. You build the skills you need. You look out for jobs, attend interviews, etc. These are things you can do. You trust that God will order your steps into the right job and position you for growth and increase. Of course, there are so many different scenarios that could unfold, but consider a simple and easy one. You receive just one job offer and it is a great opportunity, and something that fits well with your skills and capabilities. While you will look for other confirmations that we have considered earlier (e.g. the inner witness of the Spirit, the renewed mind, etc.) in most cases, the fact that this opportunity has been placed before you, is God's guidance to you that this is the direction you need to move into. Unless there is are very definite reasons not to take this job up (e.g. you are required to do unethical things, or you have a clear witness in your spirit not to take it up, or God gives you a dream not to take it up, etc.), you can proceed into this job. So in this matter, God has ordered your steps through the circumstances He orchestrated for you. You have received God's guidance through the divine orchestration of life situations and circumstances.

Stay Mindful Of Other Factors At Work In Life Situations

A very important fact to keep in mind is that not everything that happens in our circumstances and situations is God's work. We hear the statements "God is in control", "if it is God's will it will happen", and so on and people use it to mean that whatever happens in our life situations is from God. But that is not true. There is a devil who is also at work, hindering us, opposing the purposes of God, causing disturbances, etc. That is why we are told to resist the devil and overcome the world. That is why we are to speak to storms to calm them, and to mountains to move them. The storms and mountains are there as hindrances and must not be accepted as God's will for us. They must be seen as hindrances to God's will and hence must be dealt with through faith. Then there are other people and also our own choices and decisions that cause different situations to happen. For instance, we will reap of what we sow, or to put it differently, we will face the consequences of our choices and actions. These consequences cannot be blamed on God or the devil or other people. These are the consequences of our choices and we must take responsibility.



While we are aware that God will work in our circumstances and situations, we must not accept everything that comes our way as from God. We must discern and act with wisdom. Accept what is from God. Confront and overcome what is of the enemy.

Here are some facts to keep in mind as you consider life circumstances and situations to understand God's direction for your life:

Not Every Closed Door is a 'No'

Some closed doors are there, because you are supposed to 'knock' on them, perhaps even 'knock' them open.

Matthew 7:7-8

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Some doors are closed simply to re-direct you to the correct door that will open up to the right space for you. The closed door does not mean that the purpose you are pursuing is not for you. It just means that the purpose has to be released from a different place.

When Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem, there was not a single room for them in the Inn. The absence of a room in the Inn did not in any way deny the fact that she was carrying the very Son of God, conceived by the power of the Spirit of God. Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept and placed in the animals feeding trough (manger, Luke 2:7), but none of this diminished the significance of who He is or His impact on the human race.

Just remember, a closed door does not always mean 'No'. You must discern what God wants and pursue it.

Not Every Delay Is A Denial

Sometimes we expect something to happen in a particular time frame and we tend to give up or quit if things don't happen in the time frame we envisioned. So often we interpret delays as denials. This is not so. As we learned in the previous chapter, God unfolds things in their appointed time and we need to wait for God's '*kairos*' time.

Think about Joseph. As a teenager he had been given dreams of what God would do through his life. Time passed by. Things only seemed to get worse for him. Sold and sent off to Egypt as a slave, and then falsely accused and thrown into prison. Did this mean that God's purpose for His life would never be fulfilled? No! God was actually



orchestrating things, and working things out even through his coming into the prison. It was in the prison that "his word" (interpreting of dreams) was released and it came to pass. And suddenly, things changed and he began to see God's plans unfold right before his eyes. All along, God was testing (refining as metal is refined and purified) Joseph and getting him ready for his life assignment.

Psalm 105:17-22

17 He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave.

18 They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

19 Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

20 The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

21 He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,

22 To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.

So as we are considering our circumstances and situations, we must be careful not to interpret delays, as denials.

Pushing Open Closed Doors And Standing Through Delays

Hence, while we discern and receive God's guidance by recognizing His hand at work in our life situations and His divine orchestrations, we must be careful

(A) Not to accept every closed door as a 'no'. Some doors have to be pushed open.

(B) Not to accept every delay as a denial. Sometimes we need to stand through time.

(C) Yet, do not read too much into everything that happens. Don't become 'spooky' and 'weird'. Don't become superstitious or irrational.

We need to discern when God is orchestrating something, and when He is not. Recognize what God is at work. Accept that as His way of guiding you into His purposes. Walk into what He orchestrates for you.

In our journey as a local church there have been numerous times God has guided us through circumstances and divine orchestrations. Maybe it was someone coming along our path sharing some information with us; an unusual door opening for us, and so on. Here are a few examples:

[Pastors, you can share one or more of these stories, as time permits.]

May/June 2002 - Starting APC Mangalore

In November 2001, Dr. Ranjit Peter, visited us in Bangalore and mentioned about a place outside of Mangalore called Deralekette, where there were many colleges, and recommended that we should start a local church there for the students. We kept that in mind. APC Bangalore was still very small, not even a year old. In the early part of



2002, four of us went to Deraleketta, to scout the place. We saw the colleges and also noticed a video cinerama, a small hall that could seat about 50 people, where they screened video movies. We asked the owner if we could rent out his place for a music concert on a Saturday, and then every Sunday for church services, 10:30am-12:30pm, just before his first show started at 1pm. He was fine. So we did a one-man music concert! Georgy Sam lead a music concert in this tiny rented movie hall in Deraleketta, Mangalore on Saturday, June 8th. Maybe about 20 people came to the concert! Then we had our first service of All People's Church- Mangalore (initially called APC-Deraleketta), the next day, Sunday June 09, 2002. Over the years the lives of numerous college students have been powerfully touched, enriched and transformed through this church plant. Today, the local church is a thriving congregation, based in Mangalore city.

July 2002 - Starting APC Nepali Church

In July 2002, a group of about 10 Nepali people approached Ps. Ashish Raichur to lead them in worship and to teach the Word, every Tuesday 4pm-5:30pm. Now it was not in our plan to minister to Nepali people or to have a Nepali congregation. However, with this small and simple beginning, All Peoples Church-Nepali Fellowship started in July 2002. God was faithful providing people to help us minister to the Nepali people. The Nepali congregation grew, and hundreds of Nepali people were ministered to over the years. In 2017, we released them to form their own local church and establish a wonderful community of believers.

2008 Launching of Catalyst

Sometime in March/April, Dr. A.F. Pinto, the Chairman of Ryan International Schools and of Xavier Group of Institutions, meet with Ps. Ashish Raichur and asked if APC could conduct Scripture classes for the students Ryan International, Yelahanka. Ps. Ashish agreed to doing so, even though we did not know how we were going to do this, neither did we have the right people available. But sure enough, Ps. Selina Macwana was interviewed and joined us in June 2008 and right away launched Catalyst, our outreach into schools. We started with Ryan International, Yelahanka and expanded into other schools.

June 2012: God TV

In June 2012, we received a call from GodTV in Chennai, inviting us to run a weekly paid program on GodTV (Asia). APC was not the largest church in Bangalore city and yet we were privileged to be given this invitation. We had the necessary finances and there were people to help us produce the programs, and so took the step into this.

October 2012: Short Term Bible Course

In 2011, Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) had contacted APC to see if APC could help serve its hospitals spiritually. In November 2011, Ps. Ashish Raichur visited EHA



Christian Hospital in Champa (Chattisgarh) and EHA Christian Hospital in Chattarpur (Madhya Pradesh). Mr. Jone Wills the director of EHA Christian Hospital in Champa arranged a meeting with the local pastors. They expressed a desire for a short term Bible course to equip their people. So in October 2012, APC organized a short term Bible course at the EHA Christian Hospital in Champa, to equip pastors and ministry leaders who have not had any prior training, to make an impact in their areas of ministry. We ran this for two years (2012 and 2013) at EHA Champa. With this APC's short term Bible course was born and we have been able to run this in other parts of India. We've been doing this every year in Varanasi (since 2015) and have been able to train many people over the years.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday June 09, 2019
Receiving God's Guidance
Part-5 : Times and Seasons, and Circumstances

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Ecclesiastes 3:1,11; 1 Chronicles 12:32; Ecclesiastes 8:5-6; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Matthew 7:7-8*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) How does understanding times and seasons (in our personal lives) help us receive God's guidance in our lives?

2) How would you go about recognizing that the time is right for a particular action/decision you have been pondering over?

3) Can you recall one or two experiences in life, where you were seeking God to guide you, and He did so by orchestrating your circumstances and life situations?

4) What guidelines can we use that will help us discern (recognize) that God is orchestrating things for us? (As opposed to when the devil is setting up a 'trap' for us).



5) *How would you discern that a 'closed door' you are facing in a particular situation is something you have to knock open, and not walk away from?*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>