

On Good Ground



PRICELESS
September 2010

God's Timing

So much in life depends on timing. The ability to hit a pitched ball, play the drums, drive a manual transmission, and so much more, relies on the element of timing. It is the same way with God. If we are going to walk faithfully with God, we must be sensitive to God's will and God's timing. In fact, God's will and His timing cannot be separated; they are inextricably linked. To attempt to obey God's will without full appreciation of God's timing is like trying to swim without getting wet. It can't be done! Yet, how many times do we fail to consider the importance of God's timing in various situations in our lives?

Occasionally, God will reveal to us His plans in a given circumstance. Before we rush forward to possess the revealed promise we need to ask ourselves, *'Is now the time to move?'* The promises of God are for an appointed time, so we don't want to be too early and we don't want to be too late because God's will cannot be realized outside of its proper time.

We see an example of this in Numbers chapter 14. There the children of Israel accepted the negative report of the 10 men who spied out the Promised Land and rejected the call of Joshua and Caleb that they should go up at once. God had already promised the people the land and had simply ordered Moses to send out 12 spies to search the land and come back with a report (Numbers 13:1-20). Instead of returning with a testimony of praise for the great thing God was doing, 10 of the spies gave an evil report that discouraged the people (Numbers 13:26-14:4).

After the Lord struck down the 10 negative spies with a plague and vowed to make the nation wander 40 years in the wilderness because of their lack of faith, the people got religion. *"Lo, we be here,"* they said, *"and will go up unto the place which the Lord hath promised: for we have sinned"* (Numbers 14:40). To this, Moses responded, *"Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? But it shall not prosper. Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies"* (vv. 41-42). Despite this clear warning, the people presumed to go up, and they were soundly defeated. Why? Because they were out of God's timing. The time to go up had passed. Although they attacked the enemy anyway, they did not have the benefit of God's anointing or His help.

Not only do we have to guard against moving too late, we also have to be careful of not moving too soon. Joseph dreamed that his brothers would bow down to him (Genesis 37:5-9) years before they actually did so (Genesis 42:5-9) as he rescued them from the grip of a severe famine (Genesis 42-45). David was anointed king several years before he ascended to the throne (1 Samuel 16:12-13; 2 Samuel 2:4; 5:1-4). Jesus escaped from the religious leaders' repeated attempts to kill Him because His hour had not yet come (John 7:30; 8:20). In each instance, God's timing could not be rushed.

So it is with your life. The promises of God for your life are all yea and amen (2 Corinthians 1:20). Whatever God told you He would do – whether He told you in His Word or in your prayer closet – He will do it. However, His promises will be fulfilled at an ordained time; a time ordained by God in His sovereignty. You can't rush it and you don't want to wait too long and miss it. If you have proper reverence and appreciation for the timing of God you won't miss out. You will be ready to move and possess the promise whenever the Lord commands, and your life will truly be a glorious reflection of God's goodness in the earth! ☐