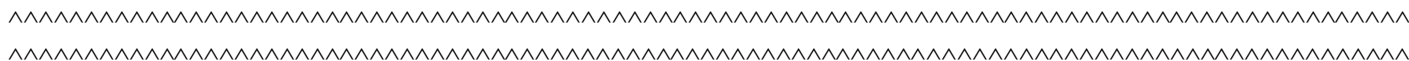
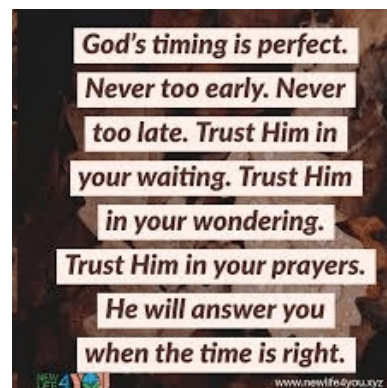


GOD'S TIMING IN OUR LIFE



QUESTION: "How is God's timing in your life?" It is important for us as Christians and God's called out people to understand and know the importance of God's timing in our lives. Because God brings us into this world with a specific purpose in mind, we need to comprehend the nature of God's timing, it allows us to be able to get closer to God and His will for us in our lives. Now, knowing that sometimes God's timing is not always aligned with our timing when things happen in our lives. For example, when we become sick or fall ill, the timing always seems to be at the worst possible time because of everything we have going on in our lives. A second example would be when problems happen with our cars, just when we have the most things to do, the most places to be, and the most people to see because of our busy schedule. Another example is that in our work, there can be so many things accumulated throughout the day, that we seem to think that everything falls on us at the same time, during the same day, just hours apart. These are just a few of the many examples in our lives that we ask ourselves after they have happened: "Why now?" "Why couldn't this happen at a later day when there is not much going on?" Why do things happen the way they do in my life?.

The answer lies in God's will and way of managing our lives through our spiritual Christian growth that we must endure each day to get closer to God and His ways. We, as Christians, need to understand that God's timing in our lives, as it pertains to daily activities, situations, problems, trials, and tribulations are all necessary and come at the exact moment in time when it needs to. When God created

us, He already knew everything about us brethren. He knew who our parents would be, He knew where we would grow up, He knew beforehand where we would live, as well as who our family members would be, our friends, our schools that we would attend, our teachers, and so forth. God created us with the purpose of fulfilling His will on this Earth. However, there are days where they can be as difficult as difficult can be, but we cannot be discouraged by what happens in this world because God should always be in charge of our lives.

We will look at one unique personality in God's Holy Scriptures, who was brought to this Earth at an appointed and needed time, and with his examples in mind, we will come to understand how we can learn how God's timing affects our daily lives. The person we will look at today for God's timing is through the life of Abraham. Abraham demonstrated great resolve when it came through the many tests, trials, adversities, and tribulations faced in his own time here on this Earth. God put him at the exact moment in history when he needed to be in this world. Abraham will set a different example for us to comprehend how he managed everything in his life on his path to relying on the Almighty Creator.

First, let's look at the definition of time itself. Webster's Dictionary defines time as: The measured or measurable period during which an action, process, or condition exists or continues. The point or period when something occurs. An appointed, fixed or customary moment or hour for something to happen, begin, or end Also, the word time is Strong's Concordance 4150 from the Hebrew word moed meaning "appointed time, place, or meeting", Strong's Concordance 5550 from

the Greek word chronos meaning "time, a particular time or season.

Now brethren, the concept of God's timing in our lives is incredibly important to understand because we are living in perilous and dangerous times. Yearly in the last part of the month of December millions, upon millions of people around the world took part of the pagan holiday Christmas, and although we obviously do not take part of this day or period of time of man, just as Mr. Russell mentioned in a Weekly Newsletter several weeks back, in that we need to be watchful and careful during this time because Satan and his demons are out there to watch God's elect fall. It is throughout this period of time between the Feast of Tabernacles and the Passover that we must be careful and observant because of everything that happens throughout this period of time. As we will see, Abraham had a unique characteristic about himself that God saw favor in. Therefore, we can learn an important aspect for our daily life, and how important traits are needed for the betterment of our lives.

Let's now look at the story of Abraham and see God's timing worked with him. Let's begin in the Book of Genesis where we will begin the story of Abraham through the message God relayed to him, when it was time to leave his homeland and make a new nation: **"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy five years old when he departed out of Haran"** (Gen 12:1-4).

God called Abraham when he was 75 years old, and told him to go out from his land where he had been living all his life in order to fulfill the purpose that God entrusted in him at the appointed time when it needed to be done. Abraham did not hesitate for one second, as he obeyed God and went his way. He knew that God had talked to him, and had a very specific purpose in his life, and that he needed to leave his land, and everything that was his in order to please God. God intended Abraham to have an incredible and destined life, and everything that followed was done in the

exact moment when it needed to be done because God's will and timing on Abraham's life was perfect. Let's continue reading about the moment God talked to Abraham once more after Lot was separated from his sight: **"And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee"** (Gen 13:14-17).

Here we can see just how God manifested His plan for Abram at that time. Now, his name was still Abram, and not Abraham because God was not finished with His plan yet. However, the manifestation and deliverance of the message from God unto Abram during this time shows the timing that God had for everything in his life to be done. When God has a plan for us, it is important to note that the time in which things will happen in our life will not happen unless God allows it to happen. This includes every single aspect of our life. The moment that we wake up, the time we wake up, the situations that we face in the mornings, during the afternoons, and heading into the evening. Every single aspect of our lives is controlled by God's will, and we as Christians must embrace this idea. It is clear that God does not allow anything to happen in our lives at our own time, and at times we are impatient, and that answers or answered prayers that we need in our moment, right away don't always happen immediately.

Therefore, as it is our human nature, we get impatient and expect everything to happen when we need it. However, we must understand, just as Abram did, that nothing was ever rushed in the way he handled the message and will of God for him and his family. Let's look at Genesis 14 and read about the time Abram's brother Lot was taken captive, and



how his response to the situation was: **"And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And he blessed him, and said (talking about Melchizedek, the king of Salem at the time), Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave Him tithes of all"** (Gen 14:14-16, 19 - 20).

Whenever Satan and his demons are out there, constantly on a daily basis trying to tempt us, to test our faith, our resolve with God, and our spirituality, it is important to know that God will never abandon us. Just as He delivered the enemies of Abram during the time it needed to be done, so shall God also be with us whenever we need it. Now, times do get difficult for everyone, and sometimes we feel as though we are completely alone in everything that we face during trials and tribulation. But, just as Abram had faith in trusting God during the difficult process, so should our resolve be in God to take care of our situations, and to leave our time in God's hands because He has already provided and thought of the solution to our problems, even before we even face these problems on our own.

Now, asking another question, as we go along throughout the rest of the article keeping your mind on the "question, to you is:" What do we do when fear and the unknown take over our spirit and mind? asking this, because there are instances in our life where we do not know what the day might bring, what kind of problems, trials, or tribulations we will face, or even if we know something must come to pass, how long would it take for it to be done. Like mentioned before, this is part of our human nature, and yes, we do tend to doubt how the solution to many of our conflicts will be made. However, God already knows, because He is already there. Let's look at the moment when Abram was in thought of doubt and uncertainty by looking over Genesis and read about Abram's fear of not being able to have a seed that would inherit everything God promised him: **"After these things the word of**

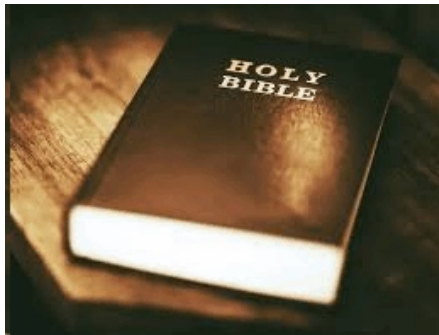
the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding a great reward" (Gen 15:1). Now, notice what Abram's reply to God: **"And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, 10, one born in my house is mine heir."** (Gen 15:2-3). Finally, God responds to Abram: **"And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And He brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and He said unto him, So shall thy seed be"** (Gen 15:4-5). Consequently, we read Abram's response to God: **"And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness."** (Gen 15:6).

These responses between God and Abram during a period of time with doubt and fear demonstrate the key to managing our own fears and doubts of when things need to be solved. God knows our fears, He knows our doubts, and He understands our vulnerabilities. However, just like Abram demonstrated unique qualities during times of fear and doubt, there can be no shadow of a doubt that God is in charge of our lives, we just need to let Him work in us. We as Christians, and members filled with the Holy Spirit need to ask God in our daily prayers for spiritual guidance for everything that needs to be done in our lives. Abram believed God, even as the most critical part for his inheritance because of the lack of not having children was evident. Abram knew God was in charge, his faith was well placed and kept strong, and he knew God would already provide a solution, even though he did not physically see it manifest yet. Therefore, this kind of resolve in our lives needs to be done as well. Sometimes, we think of problems that overwhelm us and take over our spirit and essence in our lives. But, we need to enlighten ourselves and trust the process God put in our lives, and understand that nothing is impossible for God, and God has already put the solution into motion, even as we have not seen it with our own eyes at the moment it happens.

Let's look over the book of Genesis and look at the moment in history when God changed Abram's name, and made the covenant He promised to him: **"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine,**

the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect. And I will make My covenant between Me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for Me, behold, My covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep My covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations" (Gen 17:1-9).

This is an incredibly unique moment in the history of the Bible! We see Abram's name being changed to Abraham, for God established His covenant with him and made him a father of many nations. Now, notice during the beginning of the



article, Abraham was in his seventies when God first told him to leave his land and everything he had and owned. Now, it's not until decades later that God changed his name and established an important covenant with him. Abraham was almost 100 years old when God fulfilled the covenant with him! We sometimes often complain to ourselves that things take days, weeks, months, or even years to get completed once they are to be a part of our lives! Imagine having to wait decades upon decades for the fulfillment of God's will in our lives! We must truly be grateful, and count our blessings because God's timing in our lives is unique and perfect. Yes, there are some things that might take hours to do, some take days, other weeks, often months, and seldom few, though it is possible,

years to be completed. But, we must strive to have the strength, the fortitude, and the attitude that Abraham exemplified throughout the entirety of the process of waiting for God's Word to be fulfilled.

We must be patient, we must wait, and we must obey God's Word because of the predominance of having to take part in the same concept as Abraham did, and therefore he left us an example as to what we need to do during the moments in our lives that we must need God's assistance on any matters related to our life. Thus, the same way Abraham confided in God, trusted in God, and believed with his whole heart what God said He would do, so should we take part during these times. God's timing in our life is exactly the way it needs to be, absolutely perfect, and without blemish. There will never be anything that could be too early, or too late to be fulfilled in our lives. We just need to trust in God and let the process of our life be done according to His will and time. Let's continue in the book of Genesis and read about the moment God talked to Abraham and Sarah about having a child at old age: **"And He said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and 10, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore, Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my Lord being old also? (Gen. 18:10-12).** Notice God's response to Sarah and Abraham when this happens: **"And the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son" (Gen. 18:13-14).**

God revealed unto Sarah that she would conceive and bare a son, even at her old age, and although Sarah did laugh at the idea of bearing a son, God made it clear that nothing is impossible for Him because according to His timing in our life, just like it was for Sarah, anything is possible. Let's continue the story over in Genesis: **"And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him,**

whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac" (Gen. 21:1-3).

God's timing in our life is always perfect. Everything that God has set out for us to do in our lives He knows and is aware of, and it is up to us to believe in the process God puts before us. Because things do not happen exactly the way in which we want, we must embrace the short and long periods of time we have to wait that God puts in our lives because it is through these periods of time that our strength, our resolve, and fortitude as Christians will be developed in full. Our character must be attained by believing in the process of God, and we must obey God at all times, even when the very thing we need in our life is not yet fulfilled.



Let's conclude today in the book of Hebrews. A very familiar book to all of us, as it is the faith chapter: **"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised"** (Heb. 11:8-11). Dropping down further in the chapter: **"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:"** (Heb. 11:17-18). Let's continue down the path Abraham and Sarah did, so we too can be remembered by God, as having the spiritual character, perseverance, and fortitude to wait for God's timing in our lives to be manifested, according to His will. ☞

Carlos Martinez

OBEDIENCE

1 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.

2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

3 Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.

4 But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.

5 Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.

6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

7 For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?

8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?."

(Deut 4:1-8).

NKJV

