



Seasons In Time

ENCOUNTERING GOD FACE TO FACE...
IN OUR BRIEF JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

The Prologue – Part II

Time, Seasons and Kairos Moments

Time. It's measurable, yet it's illusive. It can be our best friend or our worst enemy. Like the incessant ticking of a clock echoing in the canyons of our minds, it can painfully escalate moments into tortuous hours. But it can also take wings and fly away. Like a mirage in the desert, it vanishes as if it never existed. When looking back across time, reflecting on the innocent world of our childhood and youthful energy, it feels like surreal moments that never happened. We wonder in amazement where the years have gone. Yet, the anguish of a stolen youth and a broken past become unbearable torment that never departs. In faded photographs and ancient paintings, we become frozen in time...forever preserved the way we used to be. It's as if time stopped and the effects of aging ceased. Yet in reality, time marches relentlessly toward that moment when the road of life comes to an end. *What is this thing we call "time" and what does it all mean?*

Seasons. They mark changes in our world and in our personal lives...gradual at first; then suddenly it's difficult to recognize who we used to be or what we've become. Each season brings change...some for better, some for worse. Joyful seasons are wondrous...embracing the pleasant times and desperately wishing they would never end. But ill-fated and painful seasons drive us to our knees, praying they would quickly pass away and be forgotten. We can even attempt to cheat life's seasons by trying to change our appearances with hair color, cosmetic surgery, sporty automobiles and clothes. Some men even discard their aging, yet faithful, wives of their youth, futilely trying to recapture the younger years with women half their age...even younger than their own daughters. Vainly, all these attempts fall lifeless to the ground. Fighting against the season of life that we're in is mere shadowboxing and chasing after rainbows that constantly outdistance us! *What then shall we do with the seasons of our lives and how shall we live in them?*

Kairos Moments. The Lord is completely aware of "time" as we know it. He created it. It's the progression of life in days, months and years blending into a whole. Our time on earth began with God and it will certainly end when we stand accountable before Him. Because we know *"the Father impartially judges according to each one's work, we must conduct ourselves in fear during the time of our stay on earth"* (1 Peter 1:17). Therefore, Psalm 90:12 must be our prayer. *"Teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom."* *And so we conclude that without God, life is a total mystery lacking meaning, purpose or an adequate way to interpret our experiences, whether good or bad.*

None of us can escape the natural seasons of life. God, however, works in "Spiritual Seasons" or "Appointed Times." He sovereignly meets with us to bring changes, spiritual changes, in our lives and in the lives we influence. The Greek term that describes spiritual seasons is "Kairos"...*moments in time when God steps out of eternity into our finite time-space world, touching our lives with His glorious Presence. That's when we experience a "Face to Face Encounter" with the Living God.* These **Kairos Moments** are **OPPORTUNITIES** that the Lord gives us to **RESPOND** to Him. As we shall see later, the Lord often visits us during life's natural seasons. When He does, He offers to change the final outcome of our tragedies and draw us closer to Him. He gives us clarity and purpose and offers to rescue us from all that would ruin our souls.

So, what is this thing we call "time" and what does it all mean? It is much deeper than the progression of life with memories of pleasant and distressing experiences. Time is a treasured commodity that God gives every person who has ever lived to recognize His divine visitations, discover the Savior and receive eternal life that only He can give. *What shall we do with the seasons of our lives and how shall we live?* We must live with open hearts and teachable spirits so as to not miss His redeeming visitations during our life seasons (Ps. 139:23-24; Luke 19:41-44).

Next: The Prologue Part III - Encountering God Face to Face

