

Objective: to enable every believer to live the supernatural lifestyle that God intended.

24 March 2020
NLBC a.m.

What To Do In this Season

1 John 5:19 says, “We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.”

Rev. 3:10-11 NLT says, ““Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.”

1 Chron. 12:32 KJV says, “And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do....”

Introduction

When the ‘distress of nations’ is upon the earth, everyone realises the truth, that we live in a ‘global family.’ Nations, to survive, in human terms, depend on cooperation with each other. They can ‘afford’ to be selfish, greedy, aggressive, and cruel when the whole of humanity is not at stake. It is vital in these days, that we have an understanding of the ‘season’ that the earth is in and how we are meant to live in this season.

Sainsburys queue.... “will our world ever return to normal?”

People are discovering new friends and new enemies...as the underlying fear and anxiety, raise to the surface the panic pursuit for survival.

- Helpful neighbours
- A young couple ran to snatch the last loaf of bread...then stopped and looked at this gray-haired man and said, “Do you need this?” I said, “No, that’s all right...” She said, “Are you sure?” I said, “Yes.” Then her boyfriend said, “are you sure we need it? Maybe we should leave it for someone else....”
- other enemies...the person who took the last packet of toilet paper...only invented in 1857...some of you may remember what they did before that....some, according to Wikipedia, used leaves, grass, ferns, corn cobs, maize, fruit skins, seashells, stone, sand, moss, snow, or water. We have come a long way....

The Season of Confinement and Testing –

1 Chron. 12:32 KJV says, “And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had **understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do....**”

God’s people have found themselves “confined” on many occasions. It is in those ‘seasons’ that they ‘re-discover’ God and their relationship with Him and His plan goes deeper. Just a few references here:

Gen. 39:20-21 says, “Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favour.”

Israel was ‘hemmed in by the desert and the Sea’ and Israel was ‘confined in Egypt’ while the plagues rained upon the land, yet God kept them...He will keep us, even as we keep Him close....

The Bible, our manual for living, is the lens and practical manual for how to live in these days....

- Walk by faith – In these days of confinement, we will learn to truly ‘walk by faith’ and not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7. You will need to get your own Bible out and meditate in the promises that cause you to hear the hearing of faith and release the supernatural power of those promises into your experience. You will learn to be a meditator of the Word of God.

You have and carry the ‘shield of faith’ or the ‘shield of believing’...there is no point in having it, if you don’t use it! Eph. 6:16.

- Love – Loving is always in ‘season.’ Love on your spouse, your brothers and sisters, your children, your neighbours, the people in the queue... at the grocery store...1 John 4:8. Use the means you have to communicate your love to others...someone is waiting today to hear someone give them some word of assurance, “Its going to be all right....” You will get good grades, you will have enough, you are recovered, you will have a business...etc.

You can call, skype, text, whatsapp your friends and family across the globe...remind them of your love and God's care...forget history, bury the hatchet, and love, love, love!

An old chorus goes, "Where there is love, the mountains melt away, where there is love, the night will turn to day, where there is love, there'll always be a way, for Jesus lives, where there is love."

- Sow – We learn to sow in faith and rejoicing 'in the season of confinement' that the miraculous might spring forth— He is great miracle worker that produces for us financially... Hab. 3:17-19 says, "Though the fig-tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights."

Gen 26:1 KJV says, "And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham...Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him."

Don't stop giving, sowing, and blessing, and giving your offerings to the Lord...in so doing, you are saying to Him, "I totally depend on you for my life." Others may choose

to depend on the government 'from whence cometh their help' but I lean totally on you, Lord."

- Worship – in these days we will learn to hold 'church services' wherever we are with whoever we can. Acts 16:23-25 it says, regarding Paul and Silas, "After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them."

Let us invite the Lord's Presence into our homes as we worship Him each day. There are a number of Internet Radio stations that play Christian music...use Alexa or Google Home or whatever means you can to keep the atmosphere.

- Reach Out To Others and to those who have no hope -- Gen 40:2-8 "Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time, each of the two men — the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison — had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's

house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no-one to interpret them. Then, Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." There are always others who have less than you do...Be a beacon of hope for them in their dark place....

- Pray – pray for those who are also confined, those children worried about their education or their grades, those suffering in hospital, key workers going flat out, those worried about their livelihood or the future of their business, pray for the church family, pray for the elderly and their protection.

Philippians 4:6-8 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things."

- Take communion – the release of the work of the Cross into your life by faith...just as Israel celebrated the Passover when they were 'hemmed in' in Egypt...covenant protection was released for them. Gen. 12 is the great story of God's protection. Let us re-enact that by our partaking of New Covenant of Passover—the communion table in our own home.

1 Cor. 11:25, 26 says, "In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."