

Trusting God's Plan & Timing

Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.

How do we handle waiting for God's appointed time? Have we resolved what we consider to be non-negotiable in order to stand in these times and not lose heart:

- God's goodness
- He is a good father who won't withhold any good thing (Psalm 84:11)

We need to stand firm in these things and then fall into the mystery of God. There are no easy answers although the rational mind will often try to work out the 'why'.

1 Chronicles: Sons of Issachar "understood the times"

Two New Testament words for 'time':

- **Chronos:** general process of time: when we're waiting this can be a frustrating time associated with routine, just getting on with life, can be hard graft
- **Kairos:** opportune time, now time. Like a window or aperture that opens up – often happens suddenly and unexpectedly

We are often looking for the 'kairos' moment of breakthrough/acceleration. But these windows of opportunity don't come out of nowhere. Kairos springs out of chronos i.e. without our investment into chronos there will be no kairos. For example, we need to continue to invest into a relationship where we want to see a breakthrough – our ongoing investment provides the context for the kairos 'moment' we are believing and trusting God for.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in kairos (due time) we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

Symptoms of growing weary:

- Losing sight that a kairos moment is coming
- Loss of faith and hope
- Discouragement
- Pulling back to a 'safer' place

Chronos: a time of investment; a time to "wait well" (Jo Gordon)

Kairos: a time to be bold and courageous and seize the day

Example of Felix Baumgartner:

- Jumped to earth from a helium balloon 128,000 feet in the stratosphere and landed on his feet
- First person to break the sound barrier without vehicular power
- In free fall for 4 minutes 19 seconds

His 'chronos' – investment/preparation for the kairos moment & uncertainty whether it would happen:

- First thought about this jump in 2005
- Test jumps
- 2010: Red Bull aborted the project due to a court case
- Struggled with claustrophobia in specially designed suit
- Aborted due to weather
- Almost aborted during ascent due to a problem with his mask

His catchphrase: Everyone has limits. Not everyone accepts them.

Thankfully God hasn't called us all to do something as dramatic and public as this. BUT he has called us all to be significant. He wants to affirm that the promises he's made to you, the words he's whispered into your heart are from him. Be bold, be courageous and await your appointed 'kairos' moment for surely it is coming!

Questions:

- Read the scriptures outlined above together
- Outline the difference and relationship between chronos & kairos time. What are the challenges of chronos? What are the challenges of 'kairos'?
- What things are non-negotiable as we await God's appointed time? How can we "wait well"?
- Allow people a few minutes to write down unfulfilled promises or things where they are waiting for a breakthrough.
- Pray for each other – either in 2s/3s or as a whole group.