

# GoLife200 | Lesson 15

## Discerning Seasons and Timing

BY JAN PEACOCKE



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**THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON** how God uses seasons in our lives to grow and mature us in His purposes. It will look at the important role of themes and timing in the development of our character and provide tips for recognizing God’s seasons and timing in our lives.

**THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE** being effective in the way we build means knowing the factors determining what should be done when.

### *KEY IDEAS:*

- Seasons and Timing
- Leadership
- Character
- Power is Guarded by Problems
- Personal Responsibility

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### I. The concept of seasons and timing:

- A. We understand the flow of seasons in the natural (season of education and schooling, marriage, family and child rearing, career, etc.). We must also acknowledge the spiritual seasons we go through (seasons of challenge, maturing, character development, etc.).
- B. It is often challenging to discern the right timing; it is essential to understand the relationship between timing and change. We must attune our will to the timing of the Holy Spirit so we are neither ahead nor behind of God's timing.

### II. Our personal responsibilities to obey Philippians 2:12-13: *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.*

- A. Our obedience to the Holy Spirit means submitting our will, which is the essence of discipleship.
- B. The refining process of Psalm 12:6: *The words of the Lord are pure words; like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, filtered seven times.*

### III. The role of seasons and timing in preparation for leadership:

- A. The essence of leadership as seen in Philippians 2:4: *Let each of you look out not only for his own interest, but also for the interests of others.* God works with and through people!
- B. Patterns of incremental growth: being faithful in the little.  
*The one who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much. —Luke 16:10*  
*And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you that which is your own? —Luke 16:12*
- C. We must look at our circumstances with wisdom. If we strive for a premature inheritance, we are losing the benefit of the character that is the true substance of our inheritance.

### IV. The nature of seasons in spiritual development:

- A. A season has value in character development.
- B. Seeing seasons as a workout: "Power is guarded by problems."
- C. God's grace in developing us little by little: Isaiah 28:10: *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line...*
- D. The importance of the little choices and challenges: Character is built in the small choices.  
*Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards... —Song of Songs 2:15*

- E. We need to be willing to turn the negative components of our daily life into opportunities for strengthening our character.
- F. We want to respond to a season in cooperation with the Holy Spirit and release our “rights” to him.

*For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. —Matthew 16:25*

- G. What theme is God currently highlighting in your life?

#### **V. Recognizing seasons by the responsibilities we carry:**

- A. How many of your responsibilities are for the benefit of others? Are you pulling for others, or are you only willing to pull your own weight?
- B. How are you prioritizing your responsibilities?

#### **VI. Tips for discerning effectiveness relative to seasons and timing:**

- A. What has God put into your hand, and how are you using it?  
*Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” —Exodus 4:2*
- B. Tracking the fruit is an effective way to discern progress in a season.
  1. You must be in the transformation you are advocating (see **GoLife Appendix for The 39 Principles of Transformation**)
  2. You must be teachable and willing to be corrected.

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### *Memory Verse:*

*“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*

*—Philippians 2:12-13*

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### *Homework:*

1. **What is an area in your life where you are serving someone else, and what is this experience teaching you about leadership?**
2. **Do you feel that you struggle with impatience as you wait for change and development in your life? Explain why or why not.**
3. **What is a current responsibility in your life that directly relates to the current season in your life?**

### *Listening Test:*

1. **“Don’t let your \_\_\_\_\_ go faster than the rest of you.”**
  - a. head
  - b. feet
  - c. heart
2. **Difficult circumstances are clues to our \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. growth
  - b. lack of faith
  - c. inability to hear God
3. **We really grow when we \_\_\_\_\_ what we perceive to be our rights.**
  - a. focus on
  - b. fight for
  - c. give up
4. **Timing is a daily choice.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
5. **We are only looking for an outward appearance of spirituality.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
6. **God is not fair.**
  - a. True
  - b. False