

A Time for Regathering!

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect (fully mature), but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But this one thing I do: Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward for what lies ahead, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:12-14

I. Introduction

II. Discerning God's Moments---What Time is it?

1. Now is a time of _____

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect (fully mature), but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it..." Philippians 3:12-13

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?" II Corinthians 13:5

"Living in light of eternity changes your priorities"---Rick Warren

2. Now is a time of _____

"But this one thing I do: Forgetting what lies behind..." Philippians 3:13

"Peter said to Jesus, 'We have left everything to follow you!' 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus replied, 'no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.'" Mark 10:28-31

"We don't drift in good directions. We discipline and prioritize ourselves there." — Andy Stanley

For us as the Victory Church family to move forward involves 2 things;

a. We must forget our Failures

Don't rehearse things in your heart that God has long since forgiven and forgotten. Satan's favorite desire is to paralyze us with the past, to manipulate us with the memories. Paul says *"I learn to forget the past---and I intentionally choose to do it!"*

Paul, of all people, probably had many regrets that could have haunted him. He was a persecutor of the church. He hounded people who were believers and had them locked up and stoned.

And---as with Paul---nothing you ever do will change your past. It is gone, over, dead. Since you can't change it let it go. Learn from it but then let it go.

b. Forget your Successes

Just like failure, you can learn from success but you can't live in them. It is easy to rest on your laurels. Sometimes we try to live in the past and base our security on past performance. The *"good old days"* are gone. Let them go.

Success tends to make you complacent and fills you with pride. Then you stop growing and learning and then you're going to fail.

3. Now is a time of renewed and “white-hot” _____

“...reaching forward for what lies ahead, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14

The word PRESS ON is the Greek word DIOKO which means to run swiftly. It is the same word as persecution. Before Jesus Paul would persecute or DIOKO the church – chase after them with all his might. Now Paul is chasing after Christ. The intensity was the same, the direction was different.

*“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable wreath. **Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave,** so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” I Corinthians 9:24-27 (NASB)*

Dear Victory Family: As we look to the future I pray that we would have the same determination that got us thus far---and even more! And I also pray that those of you who are under 45-50 years of age would have the determination that we that have gone on before you have (prayerfully) displayed to get us thus far.

To be sure, greater and greater faith-challenges will await us as we strive to move forward into the next phase of the church vision and purpose. We are focused on not just “*passing through*”---but rather, “*possessing the land*” of God’s promises for us!

We want to encourage you to pray to have the same daring faith that Pastor Debbie & I had when we took the faith-step to buy this land and renovate this building.

However, going into God’s bright future for us---We need to be ready to try new things and let old things go.

*“Then Nehemiah...said to all the people, “**This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep...**Then he said...**Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**” Nehemiah 8:9-10*

*“But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “**Let’s go at once to take the land,**” he said. “**We can certainly conquer it!**” Numbers 13:30 (NLT)*

WELCOME HOME VICTORY FAMILY!

Answer Key:

1. evaluation
2. elimination
3. determination