



SEASONS

Seasons Series

Part 4

October 23, 2022

Hebrews 10:32-39, ³²But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done

the will of God you may receive what is promised.³⁷ For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay;³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.” May the Lord add His blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

Seasons of life. Seasons of change. Seasons of Pressure. I believe that we can all attest to one thing about life; it is often unpredictable and will inevitably bring with it pressures that we did not plan for. Even in the life of the writer of Hebrews, we can find this truth to be self-evident. No matter the season or circumstance, pressure always comes. Pressure in our faith. Pressures in our finances. Pressures in our families. Pressures in our marriage. Pressures on the job. Pressures seem to, more often than not, creep in with the intent to relieving our lives of joy and peace.

As the old 80s song goes, “Under Pressure”, “Pressure, pushing down on me. Pressing down on you, no man asks for...” Life is full of pressure and it doesn’t matter what station of life, age, status, position in life, title, or stage of life, **PRESSURE** is an ever present force that we all have to deal with. Thus, Point #1...

1. When a Season of Pressure come into our Lives, We must be Willing to Endure the Season as One who is Courageous and not as Cowards!
 - a. John Wayne said it best in my opinion! “Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway!” And it is time that we all saddle up and ride in spite of what we are facing! Note with me what the Apostle Paul stated in 2 Timothy chapter 2...
 - b. 2 Timothy 2:1-5, “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
 - c. High School Athletics story - “Shut Up and Shoulder the Weight!”
 - d. James 1:12, “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”
 - e. Church, listen to me today! Abandon the Victim Mentality! Stop feeling sorry for yourself! We are not Victims! We are Victors!
 - f. Victors state that it happened for us; Victims state that it happened to us! Victors share in sufferings; Victims wallow in sufferings.

- g. Recount with me verses 3-4 in our text, “³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.”
- h. Share in what? Suffering! And as good soldiers, we must be willing to go through difficulty and hardship without constantly getting trapped by our emotions! Whiners never Win and Winners refuse to Whine!
- i. Remember, when a Season of Pressure come into our Lives, we must be Willing to Endure the Season as One who is Courageous and not Cowardice!
- j. Point #2...

2. When a Season of Pressure come into our Lives, We must find Comfort in Christ and remain Faithful to the Call!

- a. Pressures do not wield the power to determine our call but it can alter our mindset if we are not careful!
- b. 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, “⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who

raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.”

- c. It has been said that God will not give you more than you can handle but Church family that is not a Biblically sound statement at all. Notice the insight offered to us in verse 9...
- d. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.
- e. Isn't it interesting that the Lord allowed them to face impossible odds to force them to shift their reliance from being upon themselves to relying full on the Lord?
- f. Look with me at verse 10, ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.”
- g. He has delivered us, he will deliver us, and he will deliver us again!

- h. Church, He's a Way-Maker! He has delivered us in our past, he's delivering us in our present and he has already made a way of escape through His means of deliverance in our future! (Tell your neighbor! "Don't Quit!")
- i. Remember, when a Season of Pressure come into our Lives, we must find Comfort in Christ and remain Faithful to the Call!
- j. In closing, Point #3...

3. When a Season of Pressure come into our Lives, We must not allow a Temporary Season to Destroy an Eternal Calling!

- a. Observe the Text recorded by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4...
- b. 2 Corinthians 4:7-11 - ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."

- c. We are afflicted but not crushed! We are perplexed but not in despair, we are persecuted but not forsaken, we are struck down but not destroyed! We are the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and this old Gospel Ship was built to survive the Storms of Life and EVERY Season of Pressure!
- d. Jesus said that Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- e. And if Christ is building His Church today then there is no power in Heaven, in Earth, or in Hell that has the power to stop us from accomplishing our mission! Onward, Christian Soldiers! Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before. Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle, see his banners go!
- f. Remember the words that Joshua declared to the Nation of Israel and so I do as well declare to you the same today! Joshua 24:15, “Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- g. And as for me and as for this great house, The Assembly Family, we will serve the Lord and will strive to keep Him first in all we do! Both corporately as well as individually!
- h. We Will Serve the Lord God Almighty! We will serve the God of the Bible! The God King of Heaven and Earth! Hallelujah!
- i. King David declared in Psalm 24:7-10, “⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ⁸ Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!” And His Name is Jesus!
- j. When we have a healthy perspective of eternity and what we will gain when we are there, we gain a healthy vantage point of our temporal plight thus refusing to allow the temporary to override eternity.
- k. Remember, when a Season of Pressure come into our Lives, we must not allow a Temporary Season to Destroy an Eternal Calling!