

I. Opening Scripture/Introduction

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (NKJV) – ⁸*But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.*
⁹*For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

A. Adversaries – to set over against/to lie opposite or contrary

1. There is opposition.

2. While there are great doors of opportunity opening for me, there is a continual opposing force standing near these doors.

B. Whenever there is a door open unto us – there will always be adversaries standing nearby.

C. Whenever there is a season change – just know that there will be adversaries set against you entering that new season.

D. Transition is the plan of God.

E. Transition definition – the process of changing from one state to another.
MOVEMENT – from one thing, realm, place, position, to another.

F. With every season of transition there will be adversity.

G. The good news is – we are overcomers – we are not without help – we have everything we need in our arsenal to overcome whatever opposing force is standing in our way.

H. Necessary Winning Components

1. We must recognize the pressures associated with transition for what they are.

2. We must know how to deal with them appropriately.
 - a. We must know how to cast them down.
 - b. WE must know how to maneuver around or through them.
 - c. WE must know how to get to the other side of the opposition and how to enter the transitional door to our new season.
 - d. IF WE ARE NOT WISE.
 - *We will give in to the pressure associated with the new season.*
 - *We will quit before entry.*
 - *WE will allow the adversary to gain a place – thus stopping us short of the NEXT SEASON*
 - e. Make the GREAT THINGS COMPARISION!

II. Understanding Transitional Pressure

A. Bible illustrations of Transitional Pressures

1. David.
 - a. **David transition began the day a servant come running and calling him to come home because the prophet Samuel was about to anoint a new king.**
 - b. **David's life would face many transitional seasons prior to ever sitting on the throne.** *Understand that just because you have been called and anointed doesn't mean you enter the place with no opposition. David would face MUCH opposition and pressure before he would take his seat on the throne in the palace.*
 - c. Pressure mounts!
As David gets closer to the SEASON of DESTINY where he will officially be king, pressure increases.
 - d. Ziklag – 1 Samuel 30
 - The city is destroyed.
 - The wives and children are taken.
 - 1 Samuel 30:6 – Now David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him.
 - David encouraged himself in the Lord.
 - David knew how to deal with pressure.
 - This was transitional pressure.

- e. 1 Samuel 31 ends with the tragic death of Saul and Jonathan.
In Chapter 2 He enquires of the Lord – for His future – God says GO UP to Hebron – David was set in as King of Judah.
- f. Some of the greatest pressure that David experienced came just days prior to his transition to the palace.

2. Peter

In the New Testament, Peter faced great pressure.

- a. He often put his foot in his mouth.
- b. He often acted quickly without thinking.
- c. Jesus had to rebuke him – even saying “Get thee behind me Satan”.
- d. Peter is on his way to preach the first sermon of the early church when 3,000 would get saved, but not without pressure.
- e. He would deny Jesus three times.
- f. He would decide to quit and go back to his fishing business.
- g. All of this, just DAYS before he would be baptized in the Holy Ghost and preach his classic message on the day of Pentecost that would usher 3000 souls into the kingdom.
- h. TRANSITIONAL PRESSURE!

3. Jesus

- a. *Jesus is in the greatest transition of all times. He is moving from the realm of his earthly assignment to his eternal position of the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.*
- b. *The night he was arrested – He wrestled in prayer – until his sweat became as great drops of blood.*
- c. TRANSITIONAL PRESSURE!

B. Unusual things happen just before you move into a new season.

Strange Things!

1. Unusual and unexplained inner pressure builds within.

This may take the form of anxiety or even mimic depression.

2. People in your life will do unexpected things.

Weird things – unexpected things – strange things

- a. People who you thought were with you – suddenly won't be.
- b. People you looked to for encouragement will suddenly become a discouragement.
- c. People you thought were confidants suddenly are revealed as something different.
You thought they had your back – you just didn't know they had it with a knife in hand.
- d. Those whom you were certain would be with you for a lifetime suddenly are no longer to be found.
- e. Jesus gave one revelation – and many of his followers left!
- f. Paul continually dealt with those around him leaving!

3. Strange thoughts of quitting – or giving up – or moving on – mount stronger.

- a. *Elijah experienced this just before he transitioned into his golden season.*
- b. *If Elijah had not overcome the transitional pressures from Jezebel.*
 - *There would be no Elisha.*
 - *There would be no double portion.*
 - *There would be no chariot of fire.*
 - *There would be no JEHU –to deal with Jezebel.*

C. Pastor's Examples:

1. Transitioning into the Call

- a. 1984 would be a year of transition.
- b. I would graduate high school.
- c. I would be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- d. I would meet my wife.
- e. I would accept the call to preach.
- f. PRESSURE
 - *Depression*
 - *Anxiety*
 - *Suicide*
 - *Demonic experiences*
 - *All of this was transitional pressure*
- g. In December – I would preach my first message!

2. When I transitioned from Evangelist to Pastor – Hazel Green.

3. When I became Pastor of Grace.

- a. Depression
- b. People did the unexpected
 - *Didn't accept us.*
 - *Didn't celebrate with us.*
 - *One specific brother took me to breakfast to talk me out of taking this church.*

4. Season Shifts

- a. Remember, people will always begin to do unusual and strange things whenever you are about to transition.
- b. David's own men spoke of stoning him – just days before he would be their king.
*David never mentions any animosity regarding this – He could have had everyone of them killed once he became king.
He recognized it simply as TRANSITIONAL Pressure.*
- c. *Over the years, I have recognized that the reason some people did things toward me – or this church – or my family wasn't personal – THEY WERE JUST PART OF THE TRANSITINOAL PRESSURE. Some of them would straighten up – once I transition to my new season.*
- d. **When God began to do a work of refreshing at GFC in 2008-9 – some moved on.**
 - Too much moving of the spirit.
 - You are speaking in tongues more than you used to.
- e. **Just before God dropped this property on us.**
 - A dear couple whom I loved greatly, announced to me they were moving on.
 - At this stage of ministry, I recognized it for what it was. I told them, they were going to miss a great season that God was getting us ready for.
- f. **The Greater Things Year**
 - **The unusual pressure.**

- A letter from a couple who had attended this church for several years.
 - An announcement at the door from a couple who had been greeting.
 - A text message from a couple who had been part of this church for fifteen years or more.
 - **Quote:** “When you see people who have been with you long term begin to move about for unexplained reasons, it is a sign that a new season is about to be released” Pastor Dale.
- g. **A few weeks ago – I announced to my wife – the transitional pressure of people is over – we have NOW ENTERED A NEW SEASON!**
- It is a supernatural season.
 - It is a healing season.
 - It is a season of the gifts of the Spirit.
 - Revival – Refreshing – Growth
 - Divine Acceleration
 - Elevation
 - Greater Revelation
 - Greater Influence
 - Greater doors are set before; *yes, with opposition – but we shall not be hindered or moved! We will walk through the door to our new season – and embrace everything that God has for us.*

D. Practical Application

How do I maneuver through transitional pressures to make it into my next season?

1. Pray

- a. Ask God for His supply of strength and wisdom to arrive in the next season.
- b. Ask God for direction.

Every season change means new territory; He is your GPS – Global Positioning System.

- 2. Stay in the Spirit and refuse to yield to living in the flesh.**
 - a. To stay in the Spirit means, I differentiate from what is flesh and what is Spirit.
 - b. I differentiate the pressure in my flesh and the leadings that are in my spirit.
 - c. I can be experiencing great pressures in my flesh due to transition and be confident in my spirit that all is well.

- 3. Do not fall into temptation to ACT according to your flesh.**
 - a. Don't create and Ishmael.
 - b. Jesus could have called legions of Angels to rescue him from the cross.
 - c. Don't be moved by the strangest of feelings or circumstances.

- 4. Find strength from the Holy Spirit!**

Pray and Praise in the Spirit.

- 5. Rest! Rest in the daily assurance that God is leading you forward.**

He will provide EVERYTHING you need!