



TIMES OF REFRESHING

Text:

“So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.”
Hebrews 12:12-13 NLT

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”
Acts 3:19 NKJV

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever felt like you were losing a grip on your world? Have you ever felt so tired that you didn't feel like going?

I. Times and Seasons

A. God is a God of times and seasons

1. God created time
 - a. He is not in time he sits outside of time.
 - b. This is why we say he is the same yesterday today and forever.
 - c. This is why we call him Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end.
 - d. In the beginning God created.
 - e. He gave us the sun moon and stars to mark time.
2. God created seasons
 - a. He gave us winter, spring, summer and fall

B. Because God **created** time & season, He **controls** time and seasons.

1. People do not control your times and seasons.
2. Conditions do not control your times and seasons.
3. The devil does not control your times and seasons.

“But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me.”
Psalms 31:14-15 NKJV

II. Power of Presence

A. God is Omnipresent

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.”

Psalms 139:7-8 NKJV

B. Manifest Presence

1. Manifest presence is God’s expressed presence.
2. God is present everywhere but his presence is not made manifest everywhere.
3. It is possible for God to be present and you not be aware.
4. Isaiah 43 “behold I should do a new thing show you not know it”
5. Ephesians 5:14 “Awake O Sleeper....”
6. “Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it. ” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”” Genesis 28:16-17 NKJV
7. God expresses himself where He is acknowledged - this is what makes praise and worship so powerful.

C. We Were Created for His Presence

1. Garden of Eden - God’s presence was in the garden of Eden.
2. Everything has an environment for optimal performance.
3. We are most fulfilled in the presence of God - we were designed to be there.

“Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

Psalms 51:9-12

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalms 16:11 NKJV

III. Repent and Turn To God

- A. Repent - To reconsider, to change one’s mind, to think differently.

““Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds. In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence. Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.””

Hosea 6:1-3 NLT

1. God is a Restorer

- a. Psalm 23. - He restores my Soul
- b. Joel 2 - He restores the Years

2. God wants to be Known

- a. Let us Press on to Know Him
- b. Like the Woman with an issue of blood - Press past Pain, People, the Past

3. God will Respond

- a. As the arrival of the Dawn
- b. The coming of Spring Rain

CONFESSION

In 2021 I am moving forward. My future is bright, and my tomorrow is great. I refuse to let my past behind me, people around me, or problems that face me, keep me from moving forward. My pathway ahead is filled with potential and possibility. New doors are opening, new relationships are forming. I'm getting wiser and stronger everyday. This year by the grace of God I am moving forward.