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LETTING GO OF UNHEALTHY COMPARISON

We've heard it said before that comparison is the thief of joy, right? I'd like to add that it's the inability to see value in one's own uniqueness. If we're constantly comparing ourselves to another person, it's obvious we haven't found joy in being who God created us to be. We are busy looking to the left and right sabotaging ourselves with hopes that will somehow give us the motivation we need to become the best version of ourselves. Instead, we send the message to our soul that WE ARE NOT ENOUGH.

There is a huge difference between gleaning from someone you admire versus someone you consistently measure yourself to always feeling like you're not as good as they are. I don't know about you, but when I start to compare myself to others, I immediately feel defeated. It's like a dark cloud of torment hovers over my head chanting lies and waiting for me to give in. I'm no longer in a place where I'm excited about my own creative space or even giving myself credit for how far I've come from the starting point. Everything I've worked towards is swallowed up by the voice of comparison. I begin to start picking apart every detail I so carefully put together until there's literally nothing left. Does this sound familiar? First you were defeated because you didn't feel like what you had was good enough and then you feel defeated because you don't have anything at all.

It is safe to say that unhealthy comparison is not our friend.

If comparison is something you've given your mind over to, it's time to shake it off. Let me tell you, YOU ARE ENOUGH. What you offer is good enough and who you bring into the spaces you've been invited into is good enough. I don't care what the enemy tries to tell you, you're still needed. There's enough space for everyone to be who they were designed to be. As we move forward with God and in the things of God, I declare our joy will not be snuffed out by our lack of confidence. We will turn to our Creator to fill every void that has been revealed in our hearts.

Meditate on this verse: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 NASB1995

No more devaluing yourself. no more accepting the lies and nord curses spoken over you.



If this message was for you, I want you to begin to see yourself as God sees you!

No more devaluing yourself, no more accepting the lies and word curses spoken over you. I love how God created us. Our uniqueness is His glory. The fact that there are no two fingerprints alike shows how mindful He was in creating us unique. Beloved, He did not make a mistake on you. There are no two people that are alike. We may have similarities, but what you bring to the table is not the same as the next person, there is room for us all. When we are followers of Christ, we lack nothing. We truly have everything we need in Him.

I don't care how long it takes you to get to your goal, don't allow comparison to stop you, nor rob you any longer. It's perfectly fine to acknowledge where someone else is and even to admire their growth, but you stay on your journey. Enjoy your journey and remember your worth.

Ashley V Grant

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THE TIMELY FAVOR OF GOD:



EMBRACING OUR MANASSEH MOMENTS

BY: DR. PUAL BISHOP

Many of you might be familiar with the notion of God's favor – His approval, acceptance, special benefits and blessings towards us, His children. However, there's an often-overlooked aspect to this favor that I've come to realize is crucial: the element of timing and its connection to a specific type of favor called Tashiuva favor. In our journey through life, we will encounter this favor, but it is up to us to cease the moment and walk in what is rightfully ours. I am here to tell you that NOW is the season of Tashiuva favor. Will you take hold of it, or will you let it pass you by?

The perspectives on favor are diverse, yet one truth remains constant – true favor comes from God. To bask in tashiuva favor, we must believe. It's a belief that transcends what our eyes can see, urging us to trust in being favored despite the tides of our circumstances. As the Bible teaches us, "As a man thinketh, so is he." This wisdom urges us to walk, talk, and think with an awareness of favor, irrespective of the challenges or past burdens we carry.

However, there's a pitfall that many of us encounter - allowing our life's events to derail us from walking in the timing of God's favor. Such missteps can lead to missing out on pivotal experiences. In this context, I'd like to introduce the concept of our 'Manasseh' - a term I use to describe those pivotal moments or trials in our lives that are essential for reaching a higher purpose or place, much like Joseph's experience before he fathered Manasseh.

Our Manasseh is what is birthed after we go through the hardships and challenges to achieve something we otherwise wouldn't. It's about those low points, akin to Joseph's trials, where we face opposition and loss. It's tempting to seek an easier path, avoiding these hardships. However, the truth is, skirting around these challenges only leads to a repetitive cycle of defeat.

God's desire for us is to face these challenges head-on, to learn and conquer them. It's about confronting whatever that 'THING' is in our lives - be it fear, doubt, or a recurring struggle - and boldly declaring, "No, not this time." It requires recognizing the patterns of frustration and despair that surround us and choosing to stand against them.

This anecdote takes me back to a story my wife, Prophetess Taryn, once shared. She spoke of a spiritual child who, after a prolonged period of unemployment, finally secured a job interview. However, just before this crucial appointment, they were suddenly overwhelmed by the urge to revisit a harmful, addictive habit they had successfully avoided for several years. This critical moment was their opportunity for Tashiuva favor, but tragically, they gave in to the temptation. As a consequence, they arrived late to the interview. It was a pivotal moment that could have marked the end of their job-hunting struggles, but their inability to resist the urge cost them dearly. Instead of confronting and overcoming this challenge, they allowed it to overpower them, ultimately losing what could have been a significant turning point in their life.

As we refer to the story of Joseph and the birth of his son Manasseh, we learn that Manasseh means "cause me to forget my pain." The birth of Manasseh is a poignant symbol of overcoming adversity. Joseph's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and faith. Despite being in the depths of despair, and taken all the way to the dungeon in the palace, Joseph remained diligent, working as if for his own father.





Joseph's circumstances, although seemingly dire, positioned him perfectly for his destiny. He was in proximity to the king, which, though it didn't seem so at the time, was exactly where he needed to be. His story teaches us that sometimes our most challenging situations are precisely where we need to be to align with our destiny.

Then came a transformative day of Tashiuva favor for Joseph. In a single day, his life was turned around: he was given a wife, a prestigious job, and elevated to a high position in the palace. The birth of Manasseh signified a turning point, symbolizing the end of suffering and the beginning of a new, joyous chapter.

This narrative encourages us to embrace our trials, assuring us that through these experiences, we too can 'birth our Manasseh' and leave behind our pain. The guestion is, have we confronted our challenges, or have we tried to circumvent them? The promise is that even through the fire, we will not be marred by the smoke.

Many might wonder why certain hardships befall them. The answer lies in the belief that these challenges are not signs of something wrong, but rather indicators of being set apart for a greater purpose. This perspective shifts the focus from self-doubt to a recognition of being chosen for something special.

The true measure of change and growth is often only revealed during testing times. When God's favor rests upon us, even the most difficult situations can be transformed for our good. No obstacle is too great to prevent us from fulfilling our destiny, purpose, and assignment.

As we step into 2024, it's a time to reclaim what was lost and to receive a manifold return. It's a period of stepping into roles and capacities we've never assumed before – as fathers, workers, sons, husbands. Embracing the 'Now Favor', the Tashiuva favor, signifies entering a phase where we fully realize and inhabit the roles and blessings that are rightfully ours. Now is the time to command, declare and decree our Tashiuva favor.

Be Blessed.

Joni Ames

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Friends,

Happy 2024!! May the Lord bless and protect and prosper you with good health and prosperity this year!

I'm thankful for you and your continued prayers, love, friendship, and support. I've been through a lot this past year. Thank you for helping me make it through.

When I came to stay with my daughter on October 6th, I was not sure I'd make it. But thanks to her and your prayers, the doctor says I'm 75% better than I was! Praise Jesus!

For those who don't know, I developed an infection into the lower regions of my back into the sweaty area of the butt area due to diabetes and blood pressure issues. Also kidney issues. It was as if I'd sat in a hot fire. Area covered in huge rash that looked and felt like I'd sat on burning logs and been cooked. Very painful. I've had three months of severe pain and getting the area scraped off every two weeks to build new, healthy skin. Couldn't sit, have had to lay on my side mostly. Couldn't travel at all. Going through this process has certainly given me greater empathy for others with chronic pain.

I still have a lot of pain and am not able to travel yet, but thankfully am much improved. Thank God for my nurse daughter who sensed the need to scoop me up and bring me here to get medical treatment and take care of me.

To top it off, I got Covid and acute bronchitis and was very sick with that for the past month! NEVER ask what else could happen!

Anyhow, travel or not, I still have expenses. My apartment rent back home, car payment, car insurance, cellphone, etc. Plus doctor visits and prescriptions and other expenses where I'm at. So I'm so thankful for those who have sent anything at all to help support me financially during this time.

So here's where I am at now...

I am still going through scraping treatments every two weeks. That is painful, but I'm enduring. The doctor has managed to help get the diabetes and blood pressure under control. I just had blood work done and we will see what it says about the kidney functions. Please pray things get better and better.

I have forced myself to get up and move around and do things in spite of the pain. I've made myself go to the dinner table instead of getting served in my room. Did my laundry. Cleaned the bathroom I use. Have consequently improved enough to be sitting up more instead of just laying down and have even begun writing again. This month I hope to get back to doing some teaching and things live online. Sometimes you just have to pressure yourself to not feel sorry for yourself and rot, ya know!

My book publication was brought to a halt due to all of the above. But I'm praying to get it back on track soon.

Last year was one thing after another. A fall in April where my back was injured. A spider bite. Then all of this.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Thank you again for your love and prayers and friendship.

Meanwhile my life is more of a faith walk than ever and I'm thankful for the support of those who feel led to help financially in this season. If you're interested in doing so, information is below.

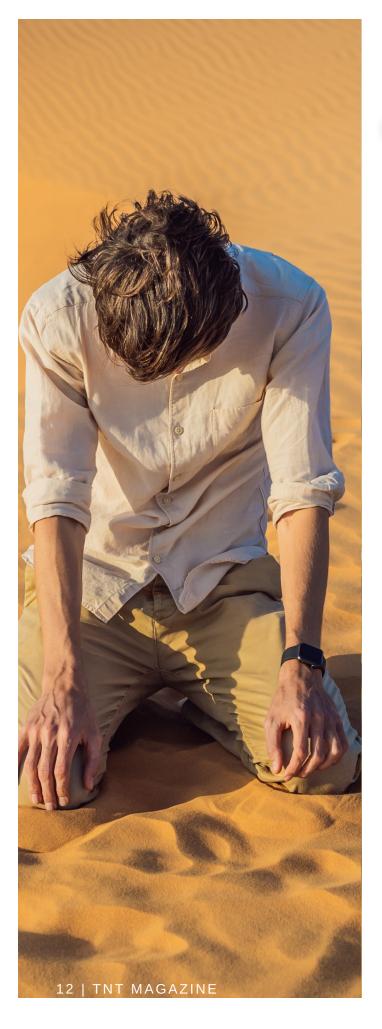
Thank you again for being there!

Love & blessings, Joni

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PASS THE TEST

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Mark 4:16-17

The year of open doors is upon us. As we pray and meditate on what is to come to pass this year, let us also prepare our hearts to apply wisdom in every moment. In Proverbs 4:7, God's Word tells us that getting Wisdom is the principal thing. By this understanding, we know that gaining wisdom is the most important and fundamental approach that should direct our choices in 2024.

As we press toward the mark of the high calling of God, each of our hearts will take center stage and be put on display. The focus will be on the ground of our heart and the atmosphere of humility that surrounds it (or the lack thereof). To create humility, God supplies us with His Word and sows it into our hearts as seeds. The seed of the Word of God holds the power to develop an atmosphere that humbles our ground. The genesis, or original state, of the ground of the heart determines if a seed grows and becomes fruitful or forfeits its harvest. The manifestation of God's will in our lives will be insistent on this ground and therefore God Himself will test it.

God said He came and sowed the Word on stony ground, and those who heard the Word, immediately received it with gladness, (Mark 4:16). During Life Church services, we shout "I Receive!" because we are happy that God will do something marvelous in our lives. We honestly believe that what God spoke will come to pass. But there is a condition, a heart-condition, to truly receive what God has for us. In Mark, Chapter 4, Jesus continues to tell us that those who received the Word sown with gladness had no root in themselves. The root is the part of the heart that supports and nourishes the seed. It lives in humble ground, free from pride, selfishness, and greed. But the same ones that received the seed would only endure for a time. Because they are immediately offended after any affliction or persecution comes to them, for the Word's sake.

What does this tell us? An offended heart is a stony heart and if our heart is stony, there is no good ground for God's Word to create new beginnings in our lives.

Family, we have officially crossed over. It is now 2024. Our hearts should not be stuck in 1994. We have received prophetic instruction, but we cannot properly move on it if we are wounded by the very persecution that comes to test the strength of the Word in us. Offense comes when we question the validity of what God said (or who He sent to help us). We become distressed believers in a split second. But I am here to encourage you that the tests will only come for the Word that was spoken over your life. I am here to tell you that even if your heart is stony, do not fret. God says that He will give you a new heart, (Ezekiel 36:26). When our hearts fail us, the Word says that God is the strength of our heart, and our portion forever, (Psalm 73:26).

If we cultivate, which means to prepare and develop, the necessary ground of humility, we will pass the test of affliction. Remember, that God loves you and wants the absolute best for you. Now it is time to ensure the success of God's Word in your life. No more wilderness. No more cycles. The year 2024 will be a year of no fear. Armor yourselves with a heart of humility and watch what God will do!

Article by Amorita Shambulia. Instagram : @ProphetessAngell



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