

The Year of Refreshing



Psalm 46:1-11

- In March of 2020, we saw God send a Pandemic (Covid-19) to shut down an entire world.
- What we learned that God sent this Pandemic to reveal what was in the heart of man.
- What we learned about ourselves – that in our hearts man became corrupt. The church became just like the world (political, religious and not spiritual).
- March of 2023, will mark (3) three years of this pandemic – The mindset of every believer should not just be how far we've come, but how much have we learned about God and ourselves in the process.

A. In the Bible the number Three (3) holds great meaning – it signifies growth, restoration and reproductivity. (Genesis 1)

1. I believe brothers and sisters that we are coming into our Spring Season – This Year of Refreshing.
2. This is a season of spiritual growth, restoration, and reproductivity (fruitfulness).
3. The word “refreshing” implies the supply of something necessary to bring restoration of strength, spirit, vigor, or liveliness, relief after suffering, or new life.

B. Spiritual principle of Grace – God's plan to empower our lives. Grace is the empowering presence of God enabling be to be what He has created me to be, enabling me to do what He has created me to do.

- Confident in His ability to supply everything we need in our lives and this ministry here at Love and Faith. (Isaiah 40:28-31)
- The Purpose: to make us aware of our responsibility as stewards of God.
- The Goal: to encourage us to walk in obedience to God and to help us to maximize our ability to handle all that God has entrusted to us.
- Spiritual Principles: Stewardship, Obedience, Authority, Faith
- Objective Lesson: (1) The Priority of a Steward (2) The Attitude of a Steward (3) The Character of a Steward

- Seven Things we should know about Stewardship
- 1. What does stewardship mean? It means the right to care for the property of another.
 - Genesis 1:26-28 – “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.
 - Another word for “dominion” is stewardship, manager or administrator.
 - In other words, God gave man “stewardship”, but not Ownership. “God is the owner, I’m just the manager.”
- 2. God owns everything. (1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Haggai 2:8, Psalms 50:10, 24:1-2, 100:1-5)
 - Everything I own belongs to God.
 - The house that I live in, the clothes I have, the car that I drive, the gift(s) that I have, the finances that I have, the talent that I have – they all belong to God.
 - God requires that we be good managers over it.
 - God takes full responsibility to fix it when it breaks down.
 - Notice God’s instructions to man (Adam) after He formed and planted a garden for him. (Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17)
 - (vs. 15-17) – God’s instruction to Adam was “simple” which means God’s the instruction was clear.
 - The Spiritual Principle of Authority – God’s plan to protect our lives.
 - (Genesis 3:1) – Notice the serpent (Satan) wisely bypasses Adam and goes directly to the women (Eve). Why? Because he knew the Eve had the power of influence over Adam.
 - (vs. 2-3) – Notice Eve began having a conversation with the serpent (Satan) while Adam is standing right there (He should have put a stop to it) – then Eve began to add to what God said to Adam.
 - (vs. 4-5) – Then the serpent (Satan) began to question (contradict or cause doubt) to what God said. Satan main weapon is deception.

1. The truth of the matter is they were already like God (created in His image and likeness).
2. God (Omniscient) who has All wisdom and All knowledge wanted to be the one to provide them with everything they needed to know.
3. They both chose to act independently of God – “They chose to become Owners instead of remaining a manager!”
 - (vs. 6-7) – Notice Eve ate first, then gave it to Adam and He did eat. Their eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

1. What they did was cover their sin. (1 John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13)
 - (vs. 8) – And they heard the sound on the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.
 - (vs. 9) ⁹Then the Lord God called to Adam (Notice God called out to Adam – God gave the command to Him and not Eve) and said to him, “Where are you?”
2. God wasn't asking about Adam's location – God was telling Adam:
(1) Do you know what you've done to my plan, (2) Do you know what you've done to yourself, (3) Do you know what you've done to others.
 - (vs. 10-13) Then they started the blame game. Adam blamed his wife Eve and Eve blamed the serpent (Satan) who deceived her.
 - Stop blaming everybody for the problems you caused in your life and the life others!
3. Teaching stewardship is a lifelong process.
4. God gave us stewardship to teach us responsibility.
5. Stewardship deals with every area of our lives (life, finances, gifts, talents, etc.)
6. God never rewards a disobedient steward, only an obedient steward will experience the reward of the Lord in their life.

7. Without an understanding of stewardship, everything that God has entrusted to us will be mismanaged. Dr. Myles Munroe – “When you don’t know the purpose of a thing, you will abuse a thing.”