



"Passionately Advancing the Kingdom of God, we boldly go where few may follow."

The *Firing Line* is the quarterly publication of Crossfire Church.

Solomon, the successor to David on the throne of Israel, lamented his frustration over many earthly things that he could not control. In Ecclesiastics 3 Solomon voiced 28 times or seasons that reflect living life on earth. He summarized his perspective on seasons in Eccl. 3:1; *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.*

However, Solomon did not communicate the full value of times and seasons nor what they may bring forth from God's Kingdom perspective. In Matthew 16:1-3 Jesus challenged the nation's leaders to *'discern the times'* just as they discerned the weather. Weather changes. Times and seasons change. Seasons can be extremely challenging with trials and troubles. They can be extremely prosperous and flow with a sense of ease. They can be like a roller coaster. They can be like a luxury car on smooth tarmac (this is seldom experienced). We, the Ecclesia, must walk out life as residents of God's Kingdom and recognize and value the changing of seasons. We must be able to shift as seasons shift; personally, nationally and globally. The Holy Spirit revealed to me early in 2020 that many will either be shifted or sifted during the coming season.

I have not liked big changes or shifts unless I could tangibly see a benefit to me. That is a fleshly perspective. The Holy Spirit has and is helping me to perceive the nature of seasons before they manifest tangible benefits.

He is helping me with a Kingdom perspective whether the season benefits me, benefits someone else or infuses a big picture shift for which we will not know the benefit for many years. Through this personal journey I found three

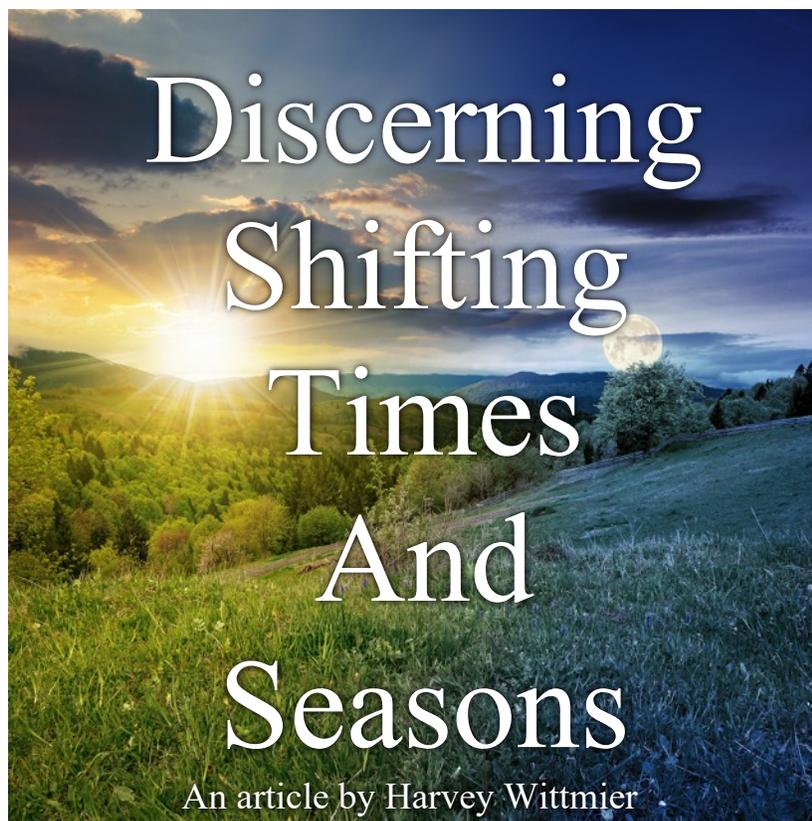
keys that help unlock our perspective and regard for shifting times and seasons.

Discern the Shift

The first key is to **discern the shift**. If we don't discern, perceive, sense, or foresee a shift, the shift can be unsettling or shocking when it arrives. **Shifts will occur whether you like it or not.** Early discernment is critical to settling your soul and preparing your heart. To discern is to *interpret, judge, and understand*. We must tune into God's early warning system before the shift occurs so we can be ready, equipped and adaptable to the times. If we do not discern the coming shift, we will be as the

leaders of Israel when they encountered Jesus. They had the prophecies. They had the written word. They had the teaching. But, they could neither perceive nor value what God was bringing to the people. They could not receive the Messiah and embrace the emerging season and time. Therefore, they missed the blessing and benefit of their time.

Many years ago before Deborah, myself and our family moved to Denver, I sensed a shift coming. We lived in a small town and I loved my job, the town, the lifestyle. I neither knew of nor understood the word *'discern'*, but I was sensing and desiring a shift in employment and surroundings. Even though I liked where I was, I began to



desire a shift. I applied for a couple of jobs in locations I liked but they did not come to fruition. Then a manager in our organization in Denver suggested that I apply for an upcoming promotion of position in Denver. I did not like big cities, but I applied and was selected. Then...**I became unsettled and uncertain** about the prospect of moving from our town in South Dakota to the big city of Denver. **Being unsettled or uncertain is not a sign of right or wrong. But, was this the shift God desired?** At that point a pastor spoke wisdom into my life that I will never forget. He said not to worry, that I would find in Denver *'God is still God; people are still people; and the devil is still the devil'*. So simple, yet it cleared my head and allowed me to more fully discern and embrace that **this shift in seasons was God, therefore He would prepare me and had equipped me.**

Many Christians miss early signs of a shift. They either refuse to see, or are resistant to, how **God uses seasons for His purposes**. Some moan and groan about what was rather than preparing for what will be. It is OK to value and cherish those seasons when it seems that we, our family, and the church are on a smooth tarmac. We should also resist evil that tries to invade some seasons. And we should even resist attempts by Satan to influence times and seasons that are outside God's timing. Satan can cause shifts in seasons, but God will help us walk as overcomers during such seasons. But we must discern the shift.

Discern What God is Doing IN You

The second key to successfully enter and walk through the shift is to *'discern what God is doing IN you'*. Every new season requires inner change to adapt to circumstances, challenges, and, sometimes, the chaos and confusion around you.

Discernment is something to be nurtured and to grow to facilitate movement beyond only our natural eyes and ears. Jesus said to the leaders of His day, *'You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.'* *Matt. 16:3b NKJV* **It's essential in the time in which we live.** In the Old Testament God gave the entire Tribe of Issachar the gift of discernment. We read of this in the time of David when more and more mighty men of God were allying themselves with David rather than Saul. David's men included: *'men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command.'* 1 Chron. 12:32. The Tribe of Issachar had a particular anointing to discern that it was time to make David King. He had been in waiting but now was the time. They discerned times and seasons better than others.

Many years ago, before being a pastor, I was the leader of a fairly large boy's scouting program in our local church. It was an intense time of spending 10-15 hours weekly of volunteer time preparing and ministering to boys between 5 and 13 years old. **During that season I gained a sense of significance and value from my position, from the ministry, and from the relationships that emerged.** After about four years I discerned a shift of seasons coming. I perceived it inwardly and suddenly my heart desired a shift. But...to what? At the same time I was offered and accepted a year-long upper management development program in my secular work (one of the tangible benefits of my shift from South Dakota). But the shift in my job and travel requirements would not allow time for the boy's program. So, I resigned the boys program at church and volunteered to be a greeter at one of the many entry doors to that church building. The greeting door I was assigned was the least used entry to the building and my ministry interaction seemed rather insignificant compared to what I had been doing in ministry. It only required about an hour each week. I began to feel insignificant in the church. But I began to understand that God was dealing with how and where I gained my significance. **He was working in me.** I was no longer to obtain my significance from position, apparent success, or visibility, but only from Christ in me, and from saying 'yes' to God's role and purpose for me in each season.

Discern The Shift in Your Role and Purpose

The third key is to *'discern any shift in your role and purpose in the new season'*. We must perceive even minor shifts in our influence with people and in the spirit realm.

Since early 2020 we have experienced a global season of COVID restrictions and consequences. This is a significant shift in seasons at many levels. Governments reacted in a variety of ways that signaled a new season, many by extreme control and authoritarian dictates. In America we had 50 states that responded in different ways. Winners and losers at the personal, business, and societal levels were determined by these governmental decisions.

Churches and individual believers responded in very different ways as well. When a season shifts we will respond OR react. To respond is an intentional, inner decision of the heart. To react is a knee jerk default of our mind and emotions that has little to do with the heart and spirit.

When COVID became the dominant global issue in March, 2020 I discerned a shift in the central message I

was to bring to people in my sphere of ministry and influence. It was an inward discernment of my personal focus, even as it became part of my larger purpose and role. I began to understand scripture from the old and new testaments in the context of current global governing decisions, reactions by churches, and how people **must shift or be sifted**. Many leaders have focused on compliance with government, i.e. *'stay home, stay safe, the mask will save you, and now the injection will save you'*. However, I discerned a shift into the Davidic season of killing the lion and bear, the season of equipping for Goliath and beyond.

David was in a shepherd season about to enter a warrior season (1 Samuel 16 and 17). When Saul questioned David's ability and intent to confront Goliath David said, *'Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the Living God. The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine (1 Samuel 17:36-37 NIV).*

From March 2020 until today the Spirit of God has me on this theme of encouraging and equipping the body of Christ to see with spiritual eyes as evil invades under the cloak of COVID. **This is not a season of compliance but of confrontation.** He has me warning, warring, and releasing Truth that is higher and greater than what Government and experts offer. The COVID season has revealed an evil at the global level. Do you perceive it? You must overcome this lion and bear as a warrior before you can stand, confront and defeat Goliath.

Discerning what the Lord is doing IN you is a heart and spirit thing that will also bring a shift to emotions, thoughts

and perspectives for the new season. It often defines our shift in role and purpose. In very challenging times like now we must be careful not to come into agreement with the enemy's agenda. What has the Holy Spirit been doing IN you during this new season? What have you perceived about your spiritual and circumstantial alignment that has or will better position you as life moves forward to the next season? Do you perceive a change in your role and purpose moving forward?

The apostle Paul gave a charge to the Timothy, Bishop of Ephesus, saying that he must *'be prepared in season and out of season'* (2 Timothy 4:2b). There are seasons when God realigns our hearts as we submit to His shift in seasons. Some seasons even feel like we are 'out of season', i.e. like things are neither what we desire nor are they satisfying. A shift in season may look like demotion outwardly, but is really promotion inwardly and vertically. **But, whether the coming season appears to be good or bad, we must discern the shift, adapt to it, and rise up as the Ecclesia as we enter it.** We must partner with the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into it. We can trust Yahweh, the great 'I AM' to help us navigate the transition and walk as overcomers into every season under heaven. We will then overcome our internal anxiety and fear. Ask the Lord for increased discernment of seasons. Be ready. We overcome!



Harvey Wittmier is an apostle and a pastor. He is passionate about equipping the church to navigate the last days.



Crossfire meets at:
3001 S. Acoma St.
Englewood, CO

10:15 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
9:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays Crossfire meets in the building. 2nd and 4th Sundays are Zoom online meetings. Contact Pastor Harvey for Zoom log-in info.



Bring your children to Children's Ministry with Pastor Peggy Nelson

Crossfire Events



Tommy and Suzi Thompson
Special Speakers, August 15th

Special Guest Speakers
Tommy and Suzi
Thompson
Pastors at College Heights
Assemblies of God
College Heights, Texas
Sunday, August 15
@10:15 am



Cutting Edge Men's Ministry
August 21 @ 8:30 am
Meeting at the church
Contact Mark Wilson
for more info.
Email: mkkkwilson@aol.com



America is flooded with debate over politics and culture. It's at every dinner table, coffee house and office. It's inescapable and irrepressible, in vogue and out of control. Everyone seems to agree that we're living in a time of rapid, unprecedented shifts, but there's fierce disagreement over how we got here, where we're going and what it all means. Like many believers, I've wondered how God's destiny for America fits into all this.

There's no doubt in my mind that there are cultural and political shifts happening around us that rebel against God's heart for nuclear families, racial equality, freedom to worship and more. It feels like America is on life support. Could we, as a nation, fall short of God's destiny for us? Are we off track? What would it take to get back on track?

Earlier this year, I heard the Holy Spirit speaking to me about the events recorded in 2 Kings 13. At that time, Israel rebelled against God's statutes, and it was ruled by King Joash, who the Bible says did evil in the sight of the Lord. The king visited the prophet Elisha and wept in despair, because Israel's army had been worn down from years of war with Syria, and it was a matter of time before the enemy attacked again. However, Elisha said that the Lord would deliver Israel. He also told Joash to strike the ground with arrows as a prophetic sign. After Joash struck the ground three times, Elisha became angry. He said the king should have struck the ground more, and Israel would have struck Syria until they destroyed it. Instead, Israel would only strike Syria three times.

It pains me to write this, but that story reminds me of the American Church. So many of us feel extreme urgency about the direction of our country, but we shouldn't need an emergency at our doorsteps to be passionate about God's kingdom. Our indifference has caused us to ignore the enemy's gains. I've even heard many believers say that Church leaders shouldn't discuss politics with their congregations, but isn't the Church supposed to equip believers to navigate the outside world, where politics have tremendous influence? Are we equipping believers by refusing to discuss issues with far-reaching personal and moral ramifications?

After Joash visited Elisha, Israel defeated Syria three times and recaptured cities that their enemy had taken. God had favor on Israel, even though it was rebelling against Him. The scriptures say that God had compassion on Israel because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even though Israel was not honoring God, He honored His word, and He'll do the same with America. Even though I am grieved at the direction of our country, and the division I see in the American Church, I know God has a destiny for us.

I've heard the Spirit say that America is to be a sending out nation. In other words, the American Church has a unique destiny to serve other nations, to reach them, equip them, train them, and walk with them. We haven't yet completed our calling to the nations, and no matter the politics in this country, I believe God will honor His word.

An article by Daniel Martin
**America's Destiny Has
NOT
Been Defeated**

I don't know all that the future hold for America. I don't know if Americans will ever return to the ideological unity we once had. I live in a major downtown area, and I don't know if we'll ever return to the level of safety areas like mine once

experienced. I don't know if our economy will ever fully recover. I don't know if humanitarian crises at our southern border will ever be resolved. Regardless, when I try to focus on what God is saying more than the news or politicians, I have peace. Moreover, I hear God whispering to me that I was born for such a time as this.

We're not going back to the good ole days (when many of us wanted to return to better, older days), but we will step forward into God's destiny. What have you heard God say about America's destiny? If God said He will do something, He will, and we can stand on His word.

Daniel Martin is a prophet to the nations. He is adept at connecting believers with their calling.



A Word in Due Season ~

Resting is actively waiting. Doors are opening. It's time. It is not a breakthrough season though - it's a step-through season. Step over the threshold. Come into agreement with resting while you wait and when the door opens step into it. I saw a vision of myself banging on a door trying everything I could to open it but it wouldn't open. I stopped and rested and then the door opened on its own - in God's perfect timing.

~ Amy Wadlington; Prophet-Seer, Crossfire Church

