

1 **A Season of Preparation**

Chapter 2

2 **Season of Preparation**

○A time when God grabs hold of our heart

○A wooing process of saturating us with His love

○A holy separation from the very places that held us in bondage

○God wants to pour into us what we need, and then oversupply us to share with others. He operates from overflow and excess, not limited supply – WE NEED TO HAVE IT TO GIVE IT AWAY!

3 **Being Led**

○Authority issues lead to difficulties allowing anyone else to control us; this transfers over into relationship with God

○Profound fear led to a sense that if we didn't control, our world would fall apart.

○Allowing leadership – God's and others is an important and overwhelming part of the journey

○God secures authority, and then teaches us to walk in it in human relationship

4 **The Wilderness Seasons**

○While at first we might think God is leading us directly into our own "promised land", He usually instead allows us seasons of "wandering"

○God cares more about our character and ability to trust Him than just taking us to a "new location"

○God's love will allow us to suffer, experience earthly deficiencies and question His character, all to set Himself up to prove His faithfulness to us

○How we exit seasons of wandering is our choice – but they will come to an end eventually; we will go back or move forward.

5 **What We Hold Onto**

○Part of the journey of transition requires that we release the things we held in our heart that we have had attachments and affections towards

○This release is a purifying process, not necessarily a removal process

○Areas of release include: relationships, things, positions, image, finances, guilt and shame, addictions

6 **A Time to Grieve**

○Grieving is a gift that allows us to heal

○Grief allows us to empty and pour out the deep emotional pain we experience when we need to detach or leave something or someone we love.

○Bodily injury requires recovery seasons; even moreso do injuries of the heart

○Purging grief is an extraordinary gift that will lead to unthinkable levels of freedom and healing

○We dread grief because we learned to not feel; we also dread it because it requires us to face things we hoped to regain

7 **Release and Grieve: How to Cope**

○Grieving is an essential reality of living in this world

○Grief connects us to the reality of both the human condition and God's goodness; thus we can find joy and peace in the midst.

○Grief cleanses us – it removes the heavy burdens we carry – as it does its job, we will feel

deep joy

OGOD GRIEVES – KNOWING HIM IS UNDERSTANDING HIS GRIEF TOWARDS THE HUMAN RACE!

8  **In the Waiting Room**

OGod will continue to develop perseverance in us as we learn to wait on Him – this is the stuff that is required to finish the race of life

OWaiting is a mechanism used to strengthen our faith and mature us emotionally and spiritually

OWhen our desires and life experience do not align, God will either change the desires of our heart, or teach us to endure until He arrives

OSometimes the outcome won't be what we desire, but the redemptive element will still pour blessings into us

9  **The Power of Endurance**

Endurance is a key aspect to genuine growth. God is molding and shaping us to be powerful, spirit-filled vessels that can house His presence here on earth! We must remain steadfast that the blueprint He designed for us is "under construction," being developed and created under the care and provision of a faithful and competent God.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

- James 1:2-4

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. - Philippians 1:6