

A Season of Acceleration

Introduction to the series

Opening text: Mark 6:45-51

The disciples had put so much effort into crossing that sea. After 9 hours of hard rowing they were still in the middle of the lake, they were going nowhere fast, they had no momentum or forward motion. They were stuck, exhausted and disoriented.

Have you ever been there? Have you experienced the frustration of having no results in spite of your best efforts, no return from the best investment of your ability? Have you ever felt stuck, unable to get traction or moving forward? Have you been caught in a delay, struggling instead of flourishing? Have you ever hit an impasse and found yourself nowhere near your goals and dreams? Maybe you've even prayed like David: "*Answer me **speedily**, O Lord; My spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit*" (Psalm 143:7).

What a contrast between the struggle of the disciples and the way Jesus appeared that night:

- He came walking on the waters,
- He was so quick that '*He would have passed them by*'
- The moment He went into the boat, it covered 8kms instantly:
John 6:21 – "*then then willingly received Him in the boat, and **immediately** the boat was at the land where they were going*'

We've heard about the 'speed of sound', the 'speed of light', but this is the 'speed of God'! He is a quick God! I felt the Lord speak to my heart that we are coming into a different season in 2019. I believe that 2019 is going to be a year of acceleration and that we should believe and expect it! Things are going to speed-up and you will find momentum for your life again. It won't be in your strength, but we will all learn what it is to rely on His strength and His grace.

You are going to be unstuck and reach your destination! God is going to break delay and bring acceleration! You have been walking as if through mud but He is going to set your feet on a rock!

Psalm 40:2 *He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the **miry clay**, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps.*

You are going to run in 2019! You shall run and not grow weary, because it won't be in your strength but in His power! In **1 Kings 19**, we see Elijah energised by the power of God and he ran 40 days and nights, non-stop! Now that is acceleration!

Amos 9:13-15 Message

Yes indeed, it won't be long now." God's Decree. "Things are going to happen so fast your head will swim, one thing fast on the heels of the other. You won't be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! ...

Amos describes a season of acceleration. The NKJV (which is a literal translation) says

V.13 – “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed” ...

That’s fast! That is a miracle – God overriding natural seasons and natural laws.

If you’re tired of ‘delay’ and being stuck, then this is your promise for 2019. Like with any promise it needs to be **believed** in order to become active in your life.

Identifying 3 causes of ‘delay’:

1. Spiritual warfare

- a) The winds that Jesus rebuked in Mark 4 and Mark 6 were of spiritual origin. In chapter 4 it happened just before Jesus ministered deliverance to a man who was possessed by a legion of demons.
- b) Paul experienced delay also because of spiritual opposition:
1 Thessalonians 2:18 – *Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. (Hindered in the Greek: ‘to hit an impasse’)*
- c) In **Daniel 10** we read how the answer to Daniel’s prayer was hindered for 21 days because of spiritual warfare.

2. Wrong decisions

The nature of our decisions can either assist or hinder the purposes of God. You can either run or find yourself stuck, depending on your decisions.

- a) Israel in the desert made one bad decision after another and that got them nowhere near the promise land. They were stuck 40 years.
- b) The story of Jonah is another example of delay. Jonah resisted the will of God. He kept making the decision to run from his calling. It took him a long time to say yes.
- c) Indecision can be just as bad as a wrong decision when it comes to experiencing lack of traction, a delay or being stuck.

3. The choices of others

Sometimes we can get stuck for no fault of our own: sometimes we can be held back by choices others make. Such was the case of Joseph. He had a dream and a great promise over his life. However, the malicious choices of his brothers sent Joseph to slavery and imprisonment.

However, because Joseph never lost sight of his dream and he kept a forgiving heart towards his brothers, **in one day**, he went from the pit of the prison to the splendour of Pharaoh’s palace and he became prime minister of Egypt (**Genesis 41**).

In one day! That is acceleration!!

God lives outside time. Things that could take generations or decades, God can do it in one day! For instance, in one day, 70 years ago, Israel came into being as a nation again.

Isaiah 66:8 - *Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labour, she gave birth to her children.*

Joseph, while a prisoner, had no option as to who was part of his life. But perhaps you have that choice. Maybe there are people in your life that don't belong there, and they are slowing you down. You have to choose your associations. Sometimes wrong associations can be a real hinderance to you running your race. If that is the case, then decide to join in with people who will run with you and not hinder you.

Conclusion

We have much to share with you over the next 4 weeks but here's your word for 2019: it is a season of acceleration. The enemy, bad decisions or others may have slowed you down, but this is the season that God is breaking delay. This is the season to get unstuck and move forward, this is the prophetic season to get out of the pit of miry clay, this is the year to run and not grow weary. This is the year to experience rapid answers to prayer, to make progress and gain momentum in 2019. Welcome to your season of acceleration.