

**I Recognize an opportunity, a season, or a visitation from God**

. **Isaiah 55:6** (NKJV) Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

For such a time as this

A time to plant and a time to harvest (shameful to sleep in harvest)

Jesus's first coming to his own, but they did not perceive a visitation from God

. **Matthew 6:31-33** (NKJV) "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' {32} "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. {33} "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**II Warned about the dangers of childishness**

. **1 Corinthians 3:1-2** (NKJV) And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. {2} I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

. **Ephesians 4:11-15** (NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, {13} till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; {14} that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, {15} but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ;

**III Maturity in the Word of God**

. **1 Peter 3:15** (NKJV) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

. **2 Timothy 2:15** (NKJV) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

#### **IV Maturity in our thinking**

- . **Matthew 6:19-21** (NKJV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; {20} "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. {21} "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- . **Matthew 7:22-27** (NKJV) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' {23} "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' {24} "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: {25} "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. {26} "Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: {27} "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

#### **V Maturity in our behavior**

- . slow to speak & quick to listen
- . complaining more than complementing
- . too high a priority placed on pleasure
- . selfish rather than selfless

#### **VI Maturity in our expectations**

- . Abased and abound
- . Hated & persecuted because we belong to Jesus
- . Life will not always be easy - There will be trials and troubles

#### **VII Maturity in our futureview**

- . **Matthew 7:13-14** (NKJV) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. {14} "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.