



**#A TIME TO  
PLANT**

# SEASONS ARE FEATURED IN THE BIBLE AS SOMETHING TO UNDERSTAND WITH DISCERNMENT:

- **1 Chronicles 12:32** *Men of Issachar - knew times and seasons*
- **Jeremiah 1:10** *“to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”*
- **Jeremiah 29:5** *““Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.”*



4 key truths in the series:

## #A TIME TO PLANT REQUIRES US TO:

- **Prepare** to have our identity rooted in Gods love
- **Prepare** for personal involvement
- **Prepare** for process not events
- **Prepare** for practical engagement





# WE MUST PREPARE TO HAVE OUR IDENTITY ROOTED IN GODS LOVE

*It doesn't happen automatically!*



# A KEY AREA IS THE **SOIL**:

Matt 13 parable of sower is really parable of soil

*How is the soil of your heart?*



## Hosea 10:12

*“Break up unploughed ground, sow for yourself righteousness”*

If we are not careful we can easily allow ourselves to be identified or defined by the wrong things: activity, accomplishments, accolades.

That will squeeze the life out of us!

**Romans 12:2-3**



We also have to be careful not to allow ourselves to be defined by pain, hurt, disappointment, loss.

**1 Sam 22:1** *Cave of Adullam - in debt, distress, discontent*

**THIS MAY BE A LEGITIMATE STAGE IN OUR JOURNEY BUT  
IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION GOD INTENDS.**

Look at what happened in **1 Chronicles 12** -  
Warriors Join David's Army - armed for battle



What do we do to prepare our identity  
to be rooted in Gods love?  
How do we break up our unploughed ground,  
sow for ourselves righteousness?

Eph 4:17-24 *“be made new in the attitude of your mind”*

Righteousness: right thinking in the area of our identity





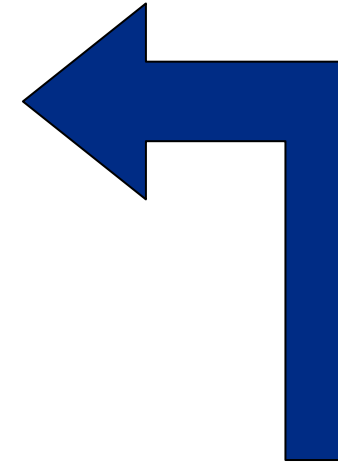
# HOW DO WE DO THIS?

How can we be made new in the attitudes of our mind?



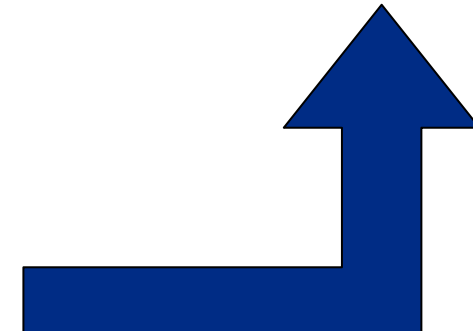
### 3. Drivenness

We're driven to achieve more to make ourselves acceptable to others and ourselves.



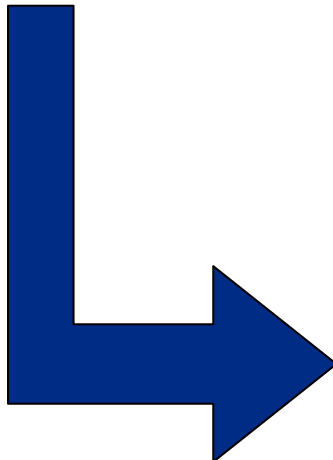
### 2. Identity

Our sense of significance is dependent on what we achieve, so we push on.



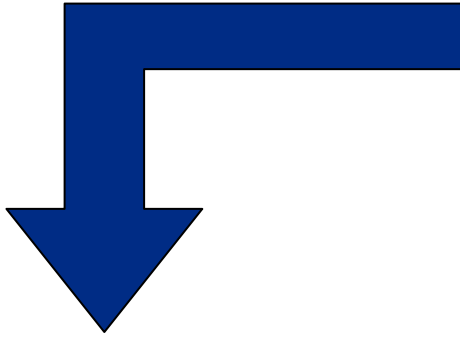
### 1. Achievement (activity)

We achieve to provide ourselves with an identity.



### 4. Acceptance

The sense of acceptance is temporary and fragile, so we go round the cycle once again.



## The vicious cycle (of grief)



1. Acceptance  
Grace  
(Ephesians 2:4-5)

2. Renewal  
Resources constantly renewed  
through dependence on God  
(Ephesians 2:7)

3. Identity  
Sense of  
significance  
(Ephesians 2:6)

4. Achievement (service)  
In loving, obedient ministry  
(Ephesians 2:10)

## The victorious cycle (of grace)

# CONCLUSION:

WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING IN YOUR LIFE?

ARE YOU PLANTING IN A  
CYCLE THAT BRINGS GRIEF  
OR A CYCLE OF GRACE?

*Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth - Ephesians 3:14-19 NLT*







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