



**A Courageous Conversation About How You Manage
The Seasons of Your Life
(James 5:7-8)**

June 24, 2018

7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how **the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop** and how patient he is for the **autumn and spring rains**. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. 9 Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. (NIV)

Big Question: How are you managing this season of your life?

Review: Four Conversations We Are Working Through This Month

1. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we see challenges** (How your view of the world affects the way you manage the tough days that come into your life)
2. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we work** (How your works should match what you believe)
3. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we communicate** (How your words should match your goals)
4. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we manage seasons** (How your disciplines should match your season)

I. Three Things Farmers Understand About Seasons

1. Farmers understand **there is a waiting season** that is determined by what you are planting
2. Farmers understand **there is a yielding or harvesting season**
3. Farmers understand **there is a name for each season**

II. Three Things That Will Help You Manage Your Seasons

1. **Be patient** (Are you tempted to believe that **you are late and behind in life?**)
2. **Stand firm** (Are you tempted to believe **you should quit?**)
3. **Avoid grumbling** (Are you tempted to **complain about your life?**)

Conclusion:

Five Lessons I Have Learned Over The Seasons of My Life

1. **Time** runs out (There is a time and a season, Ecclesiastes 3:1) (See supplemental note below)
2. **Money** runs out (It takes off like a bird in a hurry, Proverbs 23:5)
3. **Relationships** run out (One day the energy to relate can run out)
4. **Physical stamina** changes (People can’t run like they use to run)
5. **Emotional stamina** changes (People start twitching after so many arguments)

Supplemental Note: Excerpt from the Book, 9 Rules of Engagement, by Harris Falkner:

“When I was very young, my dad shared something with me that he used to tell the battalions he led. As I watched him shave in the early morning one day he said, “The people in your life have an expiration date. You will lose some through death, attrition, their own desires to do greater things,





and a host of other reasons. Your ability to let go of them is as important as whom you choose to hang on to. You only have so much space and energy. You have a finite amount of time because you are human. You have limited resources because time is among the materials you must work with. So make sure you have the right people around you to get the things done that you need to get done. And remember that most of us are only with each other one mission at a time. Gain the most from them and be the most with them for as long as is appropriate and successful.”

It was an important message about staying focused and having a squad around you that can help you reach excellence. The power of his words has stayed with me ever since. I still have the journal I wrote them in.

The simple truth is that we all need support to achieve our goals and if we don’t consider and line up people in our lives who possess the wisdom, skills, moral fiber, and intention to be there for us when we need them most, we may not thrive and survive the way we hope to. Knowing who your allies and special forces are, and by contrast, knowing your enemies and detractors too—the people who intentionally or unintentionally can harm you or impede your progress—is vitally important.”

Next Time: A Courageous Conversation About What Happened to The Family Team

Read Ahead: Deuteronomy 6:1-7

6 “Now this *is* the commandment, *and these are* the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe *them* in the land which you are crossing over to possess, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Therefore hear, O Israel, and ^[a]be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (NKJV)