



It's
Time
for
Answers

Dr Cecil Stewart OBE

It's Time for Answers

Answers to the impossible circumstances of life are available now through faith because we live in a day of grace and favour provided by the death and resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Ephesians 2:14 reveals that Jesus is our peace and has broken down the middle wall of separation between us.

Not only has the Lord removed the middle wall of separation between the Jew and the Gentile, but we who have received the gift of eternal life are now part of His family and heirs of all that the Father has.

Ephesians 2:6-10 says 'And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them'.

His grace is truly amazing and yet so many live like orphans even though they are part of the family and heirs to abundant life – see **John 10:10**. This means answers to our most challenging problems are now available, if we

will only take the time to receive the revelation of His great inheritance through faith which comes by meditating in His word day and night.

Just like a natural will must be read and understood before the beneficiaries can enjoy the benefits we must also take the time to receive His word into our hearts and minds in abundance. When this happens we realise there are no impossibilities because we are living in the grace of God and can now claim the promises and provision made available to every believer.

Romans 13:11-14 shows it is high time to awaken out of sleep and put off the works of darkness. It is up to us to rise and put on the armour of light so we can experience the answers God has provided, not just for our needs but we become ambassadors for Christ so those in our world can see and receive the abundance of grace and gift of righteousness – see **Romans 5:17-18** and **2 Corinthians 5:20-21**.

Matthew 7:7-8 says 'everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds'.

Often we give up too easily. We need to set a time aside daily to worship and praise and to call into being the answers we need and not to rush on and tolerate ailments and afflictions that Jesus already took when He died on the cross and rose again.

James 1:5-6 shows how if we lack wisdom we can ask of God and He will give it liberally but we must ask in faith without wavering.

There is so much more available if we will take the time to prepare ourselves and use believing prayer everyday.

Romans 8:26-27 says 'Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God'.

God has given us a wonderful gift of praying in the Spirit and allowing the Holy Spirit to make intercession through us using our heavenly language. You can see this in the life of Paul the Apostle in **1 Corinthians 14:15** when he said 'I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding also'.

Believers need to exercise this privilege so much more because when we pray in the Spirit we are praying in the centre of God's will. Notice Paul also said 'I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all'. He also said 'He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself'. So this is not some gift for a particular denomination, this is a gift for every believer who is born again of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18 exhorts us to pray with all kinds of prayer. In that same chapter we realise the vital importance of putting on the full armour of God – this needs to be studied and acted upon by every believer.

Recently I asked myself ‘how am I using my time and energy?’ These are gifts from God and we are stewards who will have to give an account to the Lord some day. Perhaps we need to make adjustments and stop doing some things that are unproductive and wasting time which cause stress and takes our attention away from the big picture of fulfilling our destiny.

Recently ITN news reported how some people are living under severe stress and finding it hard to fit everything into their day. The report said that many people are distracted by social media and this can also cause stress, but there is an answer.

A good example of receiving answers is seen in the life of Joseph who had suffered great injustice.

Genesis 41:14-16 says ‘Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not

in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace'.

After all the years Joseph spent in prison and in the dungeon he was still in touch with God and getting answers for others. Now at 30 years old he is alert and awake to what God is saying and able to interpret Pharaoh's dream without delay. He had lived in a hostile environment since being taken forcibly and sold into slavery by his brothers. Then he suffered complete injustice and blamed for a crime he never committed, resulting in imprisonment with extremely uncomfortable conditions.

1. He was sent for

Even though Joseph was in the dungeon and living in a hostile environment, when he was sent for by Pharaoh he was in touch with God and ready to interpret this crucial dream which affected the whole nation of Egypt and saved the lives of his generation including his own family.

Proverbs 18:16 says 'a man's gift makes room for him'. When we use our gifts and talents for the good of others we will experience great answers to prayer in our own personal lives and families.

Ephesians 5:14-17 exhorts us to not be unwise but understand what the will of God is, redeeming the time. Please study carefully.

Mark 16:15-20 shows that we have been called as believers to be witnesses every day in the real world. It's not just talking about evangelists or pastors preaching in a meeting. It is showing us that we can go out everyday and share the love of God and the Good News on a one-to-one basis as the Holy Spirit leads us.

Now we need to stop and check are we maximising our preparation? Are we in good communication with the Lord and others? Are we manifesting the influence of God's kingdom as we should when the world so desperately needs answers?

2. It happened suddenly

Joseph could have said 'I am in no state to stand before Pharaoh, I am depressed, I am discouraged', but no, even though he lived in a hostile environment and it happened suddenly he was ready on the inside because he kept his heart and mind in good communication with God.

Acts 2:2 says 'suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rush of mighty wind'. God is waiting for us to prepare so He can give us some sudden answers and breakthroughs.

After being before the court in my early 20's I felt shocked and disappointed to hear the judge say he ruled against me. I was only a short time in business when a man came to my showroom in Adelaide Street, Belfast and bought a very nice quality used car and signed a hire purchase

agreement to pay for it. A few weeks after buying it he decided to leave the car back outside the showroom and he told the finance company he never signed the agreement, indicating that we had forged it. This put me and the finance company in a very serious position and when the judge believed his story it not only had the potential to damage our name, but also to leave us with a considerable bill of costs. After a short consultation with our lawyers and the finance company we decided to appeal the case to the High Court. It was a huge challenge for me but Lord Justice Curran asked the counsel if the man had ever signed a previous hire purchase agreement and when they said 'yes' he asked to see a copy. He then compared the signatures and saw that the 2 of them were identical. Without delay Lord Justice Curran summed up the case by saying 'I now reverse this decision with all costs'. It was a very sudden breakthrough for us, however, we had to face the challenge and fight for it, but the truth is always worth fighting for!

3. He got ready outside

As you read this report of Joseph in Genesis 41 you see that he immediately got shaved and changed his clothes. He was already in touch with God on the inside but now he needed to prepare himself outside. If we are right within God can use us without. See **Proverbs 24:27** where it says 'Prepare your work without, and make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterwards build your house'.

Just as a builder prepares foundations before building a house so we need to prepare our hearts and minds to live an overcoming life in harmony with God's word and will. Many marriages are destroyed through attacks of the enemy because the foundation for a strong marriage is not properly laid. For example, **Ephesians 5:25-32** reveals God's design for a blessed family. Taking time to carefully study this and other scriptures in relation to marriage will bring new insight and wisdom that can transform married life. Wives are instructed to submit themselves to their own husbands as to the Lord – this does not mean husbands are to lord it over their wives but honour, protect and love them as Christ loves the church and gave Himself for it.

1 Peter 3:7 tells us we are 'heirs together of the grace of life'. It has been said 'if you want your wife to treat you like a king, then treat her like a queen'. Respecting and honouring each other is a sure way to strengthen marriage and then when tough times come they will be able to stand through the storm.

Satan hates the family and continually tries to cause strife and division, this can lead to separation and isolation – that's why husbands and wives need to pray together and exhort each other daily. It is important to remember that God ordained marriage, so husbands and wives could raise children in an atmosphere of love where God's word is honoured and His presence is experienced. Remember, your home is what you make it, so take the time to consider ways to enhance your marriage. Many people spend years

in university to train for their career or profession but yet so many go into marriage without any preparation. The impact of a Godly home is immeasurable and its influence has awesome consequences that go from generation to generation.

You will do yourself a great favour if you will take the time to study the following scriptures: **Titus 2:11-15, I John 2:15-17, I Corinthians 6:9-11, Proverbs 22:6, Joshua 24:15.**

One of the greatest Presidents of America, Abraham Lincoln, was asked if he ever feared being overcome by an invasion from a foreign nation that might destroy them. After considering the question he replied 'if America is ever destroyed it will not be from without but from within'. Remember, money buys a house but love makes a home. If you would like a copy of my message on the home and the family please request it and we will send it to you free of charge.

4. His testimony opened a great door

Pharaoh told him he had heard about his ability to interpret dreams and give answers. This testimony brought him out of the dungeon and before the king.

When we maintain a good testimony doors will open, chains will fall off and God will work in us and through us.

1 Corinthians 16:9 tells us how Paul had a great door open for him but he was experiencing much adversity. **Adversity will come when doors open but God has given us the grace and power to get through the adversity and use our influence with the many open doors and divine connections that He is giving us each day.**

5. He said 'it's not in me'

When Pharaoh told him he believed he could answer the dream Joseph said 'it is not in me but God will do it'. He manifested a spirit of humility and this is so important, whether in good times or bad times we need to realise it is only the Lord who has given us the ability to do anything of eternal value. **James 4:6** says 'But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble'.

6. He stated 'God will give you an answer'

This is a promise for all of us. God is more willing to give than we are to receive. **Answers are available but are we ready to receive them?** In **John 16:24** Jesus said 'Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full'.

7. Use your gift and authority

God has given us gifts and talents of different kinds – let's use them for our own good and the good of others and let's also exercise our authority over the works of the devil. According to **Luke 10:19** we have been given power over all the power of the enemy. **There is a time to pray and there is a time to say so we need to speak straight to the enemy and tell him to get off.** We have that authority in Jesus' name. So awake, arise and unite! It's time for answers!

James 1:25 says 'But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed'. **Joseph continued to live a life of honour in the worst possible times when in the pit, the prison and the dungeon. His testimony and leadership saved multitudes and the light of his life still shines as a good example for us today.** **Revelation 12:11** says 'And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death'.

Don't magnify your mountains, use your authority and move them in Jesus' name!

If you would like to receive information about CCN or support the ministry please contact us.

You can also visit our website www.ccnorg.com to find teachings of Dr Cecil Stewart OBE, request other free hope builders and find up-to-date information on the ministry and special events.

Other hope builders include: Sights, Sounds & Seasons, Healing Environment, The Transforming Power of Thanksgiving, Give it Over and Get on, It's not over, Settling Uncertainties, Followers who Finish, Overcoming Anxiety, Overcoming Offence, Change & Choice, Accelerate, Raising your hopes, Youth Alert, and Divine awareness.

Watch Deciding Your Destiny on Revelation TV every Sunday at 10pm and Thursday at 2pm.

Facebook: CCN - Christian Communications Network

Facebook: Cecil Stewart

YouTube: Christian Communications Network

Christian Communications Network

547 Antrim Road, Belfast

County Antrim, Northern Ireland

BT15 3BU

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9077 9552

Email: ccn@ccnorg.com







Christian Communications Network

547 Antrim Road, Belfast

County Antrim, Northern Ireland

BT15 3BU

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9077 9552

Email: ccn@ccnorg.com