

**Monday, October 28. Read Colossians 3:1-3.** Hidden seasons are sacred seasons. Being hidden with Christ means you will go through seasons where you feel like your whole life is under construction. Many times we feel buried, but we must remember that hidden seasons produce strengths that unveiling seasons cannot. Assets like character, authority, wisdom, boldness, vision, morality, special talents are not developed while everyone is watching. I'm sure we all could agree of how grateful we are for the small circle of people who have played key roles in these seasons of our lives, because the building process is not always beautiful but chaotic. When you squeeze an orange, what do you get? Orange juice. When you squeeze a grape, what do you get? Grape juice. When life, tests, and relationships squeeze you, what do they get? Frustration, mediocrity, and weakness or focus, courage, and strength? Hidden seasons are where the pressing and pruning happen in our lives. If you're experiencing the loving pressing and pruning of the Lord, I've got great news for you, friend. You've not been BURIED, you've been HIDDEN! Hidden seasons are sacred seasons because that's where lasting growth is built. STAY HIDDEN!!!

**Tuesday, October 29. Read Isaiah 43:18-19.** We all want situations and people around us to change, but rarely do we see those areas change. In fact, many times when I have brought these kind of concerns up in prayer, the response from the Lord is, "Son, if you want them or that to change, then you need to change." The "new" we are wanting around has to first take root inside of us. So here's a question we need to ask when wanting people and things to change – "Am I making room for the new?" The excitement of new is thrilling, but we need to set a standard inside of ourselves when it comes to new. "New" is not repackaging what you already have, it's pioneering something fresh in your life! When you begin to desire "NEW," everything changes – priorities, standards, and focuses. A hunger for "NEW" will give you an appetite for unfamiliar territory and will make the impossible look attractive. The hunger for new can be a gift if you are willing to change. Starting today, give yourself permission to make room for the new.

**Wednesday, October 30. Read Isaiah 40:31.** There is a place between PROMISE and FULLFILMENT called "in the meantime." This is the place of change and transformation. Here's three questions to ask yourself "in the meantime":

- Whose voice am I listening to? Abram thought he was listening to the voice of wisdom when Sarai offered for him to sleep with her maidservant Hagar so they could have their promise fulfilled. As if God needed help keeping His promise. When we listen to voices other than the Lord's, we will birth Ishmaels instead of Isaacs every time.
- What is God developing inside of me during this season? The truth is God is not delaying your promises. He is waiting for you to become the person you need to be so you can have the spiritual strength and maturity needed to carry the promise He has made to you. It's the mercy of God that He has not fulfilled certain promises. He knows the enemy would love to crush us with premature fulfillment.
- Do you desire the promise more than the Promiser? This question is the most important and the most telling of our progress. It reveals our intentions and shows us to change in the deepest place of our souls – our heart's motive. I am so grateful for this question because it teaches me to desire the PROMISER more than the PROMISE.

Are you waiting properly? How you wait determines "how" and "when" your fulfillment comes. Waiting produces strength, gives you heaven's perspective, and replenishes you to have endurance. God is more interested in who you're becoming while you're waiting than what you're waiting for. Give Him something worth watching by waiting properly!

**Thursday, October 31. Read Matthew 16:13-19.** In the kingdom, knowing Him is knowing yourself. This is how you discover your true, godly, kingdom identity. Notice the exchange between Peter and Jesus. When Peter has the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, look at what he was rewarded with. Jesus looked into the DNA and the future of Peter, pointed his finger and said, "YOU ARE PETER (Peter means "rock") and on THIS rock I will build my church." When Peter discovered who Jesus was, he discovered who he was (identity) and what he was born for (destiny). This is true kingdom identity! This moment would stay with Peter for the rest of his life, no doubt for the hard times, but to also give thanks in the satisfied moments of his life's work. God wants the same for you and make this invitation to answer the question, "Who do you say that I am?" How you answer will unlock identity and destiny – Get ready!

**Friday, November 1. Read. Read John 4:34.** In the kingdom, destiny is not about where you're going, it's about who you're going with. Calling has to do with "what" you will do. Destiny has to do with "who" you are called to. What happens when "where" or "what" changes? Nothing if you understand destiny has to do with "who"! Consider this: Ruth got her Boaz because she stayed with Naomi. The disciples walked in their destiny because they stayed with Jesus. Elisha received the double portion because he refused to leave Elijah's side. Saul of Tarsus became Paul the apostle because he stayed in relationship with Barnabas and other key figures. Passion, skills, and talents will give you the tools to live out your calling, but relationships will keep you on your destiny track. Always remember, your alignments determine your assignments!

Adapted from <http://chrisestrada.tv>