

Relevance

and God's Timing

Relevance means the quality or state of being closely connected, useful, or important to the matter at hand. Once a person is born again of the Spirit, that person has relevance to the kingdom of God through the word of his testimony, and through his obedience which is his living testimony to his trust or faith in the Lord.

Earlier this week I listened to a word from Carter Conlon, a preacher. He said a man challenged him saying, "How dare you say that Jesus is the only way to heaven?" Carter responded asking for five minutes of the man's time. In that five minutes Carter explained what the Lord had done in his life; then he asked the man what the man's concept of God had done for him. The man couldn't answer. He thanked Carter and walked away.

I think about a testimony that was long in coming. Pride had to be broken in King Nebuchadnezzar. This is the King who threw the three Hebrews into the fiery furnace. When they came out alive, he realized the power of their God and His ability to deliver and decreed that no one could speak against their God or they would be completely destroyed. There was still a powerful lesson Nebuchadnezzar needed to learn. Although he had been warned in a dream interpreted for him by Daniel, he overestimated his own importance and accomplishments, not realizing his relevance depended on God.

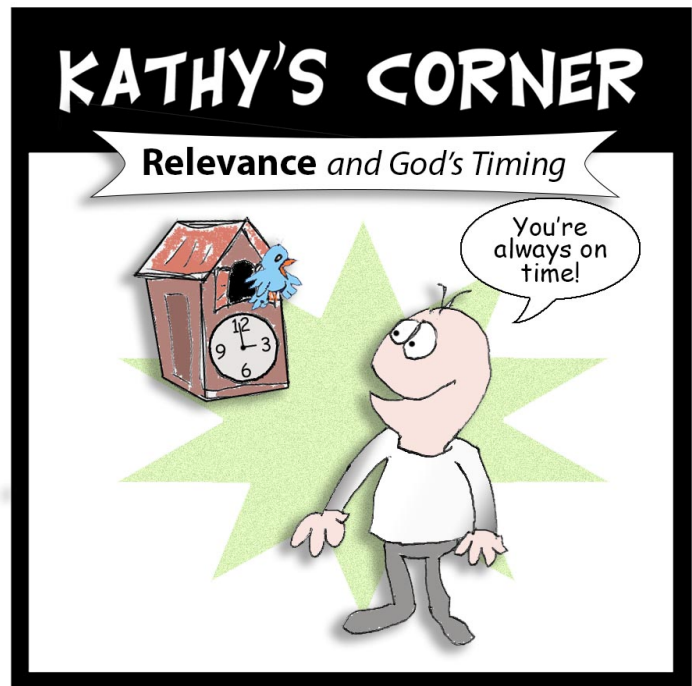
All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months, as he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon, the king exclaimed, "Is this not Babylon the Great that **I have built to be a royal residence **by my vast power** and **for my majestic glory**?"**

While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared that the kingdom has departed from you. You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals, and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants."

At that moment the message against Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people. He ate grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky, until his hair grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever:

**For his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom is from generation to generation.**



**All the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing,
and he does what he wants with the army of heaven
and the inhabitants of the earth.
There is no one who can block his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”**

At that time my sanity returned to me, and my majesty and splendor returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and my nobles sought me out, I was reestablished over my kingdom, and even more greatness came to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of the heavens, because all his works are true and his ways are just. He is able to humble those who walk in pride.
(Daniel 4:28-36 CSB)

The timing of God is perfect.

Lord, I am thankful for Your timing. You always know what you are doing. There are so many things that we aren't ready for, but You are always working. You are the faith-builder. You are the source. In Your timing You put the right people in our lives; You open our eyes to see truth we didn't see before; You bless us so that we can bless others. You waste nothing we have been through; You don't give up on us even when we want to give up on ourselves; when we have dishonored You and Your reputation by claiming the name of Christ but living as if we don't belong to You. You always welcome us home and restore us when we return to our senses as did the prodigal.

Jesus came at the right time for the world as a whole, and for me personally.

For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. *(Romans 5:6 CSB)*

It is the Love of God in our Savior that makes us know our relevance in God's eyes. It is the Spirit of the Lord that gives us relevance in this life. **In God's timing** He has been working all things in our lives for good. We have a testimony, not just of the good, but of the failures and sin which He has brought us out of, making us more than conquerors. **In His time** He gives us the boldness and freedom to share what we have been through to show others that He is truly the Savior of us/me and wants to be the Savior of them. Our openness about *our before-Christ* may give them the hope they need to see salvation is possible for them no matter how *bad* they have been. They will know you are not judging them. *Before-Christ* is never pretty in any of us, but God's work in a life is beautiful.

Over time we realize the relevance of the presence of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Bible becomes more than a history book or storybook, but the word of God from His mouth written by inspired men—relevant, inspirational, personal and prophetic.

Sometimes, especially with older folks, we feel irrelevant and out of touch. A backward glance may help to see the hand of God preparing us for what He planned for us. We are always relevant as long as we can show kindness or patience, “give with joy” as Doug mentioned, encourage, be humble, or even simply breathe a prayer for someone or for something that God wills. Even if we were in a rest home or in a prison, even a prison of our own making if we haven't taken care of our bodies, we are still relevant—perhaps a testimony can be given, perhaps a kindness can be shown. And if I am totally isolated, I am never alone; I can breathe a prayer or a blessing. Realize your relevance.

Jesus will come again at the right time! Look forward to it!