



# RCCG OCEANIA

Faith & Trust

## It Is True That There Are Times

### At a Glance

#### BIG IDEA

This study centers on a single, simple confession: it is true that there are times. The goal is to hold that statement clearly and honestly, without forcing details that are not provided. Use the sessions to reflect on what "times" may mean in lived experience and in Scripture study once specific passages are supplied.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

## Key Takeaways

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- Affirm the core statement: it is true that there are times.
- Avoid adding details not given; stay with what is stated.
- Use the theme as a starting point for further Bible-based clarification once passages are identified.
- Let the simplicity of the statement guide a reflective, honest discussion.

## Introduction

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Many believers experience a season where they pray, fast, and seek God's direction—yet clarity seems withheld. This study explores how to interpret such seasons through biblical patterns: God may be shaping the person he will use, arranging necessary external factors, or fighting unseen battles for protection. The goal is to grow in patience, discernment, and confidence in God's will and timing.

## Scripture Reading

- **Luke 2:52** — Jesus' "silent years" are summarized as growth in wisdom, stature, and favor—showing that waiting seasons can be formative.
- **Romans 8:28** — God works "all things" together for good for those who love Him—grounding rest in God's sovereignty when life is confusing.
- **Luke 1:39-45** — Mary's visit to Elizabeth shows God's timing and how delayed or aligned seasons can connect destinies and release prophetic confirmation.
- **Matthew 2:20** — After danger from Herod, God's instruction to return came only when the threat was removed—illustrating protective silence and divine timing.
- **1 John 5:14-15** — Confidence in prayer is tied to asking according to God's will, not merely intensity or urgency.

## Key Points

1. Silence can mean God is working on you — A season of silence may indicate that God is shaping the vessel who will carry His will. Revelation without readiness can be wasted, so God may prioritize formation over information. Biblical pattern: Jesus' early life is not portrayed as constant public instruction; instead, Luke summarizes growth—wisdom, stature, and favor (Luke 2:52). The takeaway is not passivity, but stewardship: use quiet seasons for learning, maturity, character, and spiritual stamina. This perspective reframes impatience. Instead of concluding "God has left," ask, "What is God building in me so I can carry what I am asking for?"
  - Identify one area where maturity would help you carry the next level responsibly (character, discipline, knowledge, relationships, stewardship).
  - Replace complaint with a formation prayer: "Make me the version that can obey what You will reveal."
  - Choose one concrete training step for this week (study, counsel, service, skill-building, repentance, reconciliation).

Scripture: Luke 2:52

## Key Points (cont.)

2. Silence can mean God is arranging other factors — God's will does not depend only on personal desire or even personal obedience; it often involves people, timing, and conditions. Silence may mean God is working "at the other end" of your destiny—rearranging relationships, preparing helpers, aligning opportunities, and coordinating outcomes that you cannot control. Biblical pattern: In Luke 1:39–45, when Mary greets Elizabeth, the unborn child leaps and Elizabeth speaks by the Holy Spirit. The passage highlights timing and connection: God can appear silent for a period and then suddenly confirm His plan through the right encounter at the right moment. This teaches discernment: not every delay is denial; ...

## Key Points (cont.)

2. Silence can mean God is arranging other factors (cont.) — some delays are alignment so that when movement begins, it is sustainable and supported.
  - List the “other factors” you cannot control (people, openings, approvals, resources). Surrender them explicitly to God in prayer.
  - Ask God for wisdom to recognize destiny connections without forcing them (Luke 1:39–45).
  - Practice gratitude during waiting: thank God that He is arranging what you cannot see.

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45   Romans 8:28

## Key Points (cont.)

3. Silence can mean God is fighting unseen battles — God may delay guidance or action because He is averting dangers you cannot see. When opposition cannot cancel destiny, it may attempt to ambush the path of destiny; God can restrain movement until the road is clear. Biblical pattern: After Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary were instructed to relocate for safety. The return instruction came later, with a specific reason: "they are dead which sought the young child's life" (Matthew 2:20). The timing of God's directive was protective. This calls for trust. If God says to wait, it may be mercy. If God restrains you, it may be love— preventing harm that would have accompanied an early "yes."
  - Think of a past time you wanted a door to open quickly. In hindsight, what danger or burden might God have prevented?
  - When frustrated by delay, pray: "If there are unseen battles, fight for me and clear the path in Your time."
  - Commit to obeying both God's direction and God's timing—what to do and when to do it.

Scripture: Matthew 2:20      Romans 8:28

## Key Points (cont.)

4. Confidence in prayer: ask according to God's will — Waiting is not aimless; it is anchored in confidence that God hears prayer aligned with His will. Scripture frames mature prayer as alignment, not pressure. 1 John 5:14–15 grounds confidence: when requests align with God's will, believers can rest that God hears and will answer. This reinforces the larger lesson: silence does not cancel prayer, but it may be calling you deeper into alignment with God's counsel and timing.
  - Use 1 John 5:14–15 as a weekly prayer template: write specific requests and add, "according to Your will."
  - Ask two clarity questions in prayer: "What are You saying?" and "When are You saying it?"
  - When tempted to force outcomes, choose surrender: "I will not outrun Your timing."

Scripture: 1 John 5:14–15

## **Group Discussion**

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

### **Observation**

- According to this study, what are the three meanings that God's silence can indicate?
- What does Luke 2:52 emphasize about growth during a season where little is recorded about direct instruction?
- In Luke 1:39–45, what happens when Mary greets Elizabeth, and what does that reveal about timing and confirmation?
- What specific reason is given in Matthew 2:20 for when it became safe to return?
- What does 1 John 5:14–15 say is the basis for confidence in prayer?

## Interpretation

- Why might revealing direction too early be “wasted” if the person is not yet ready to carry it?
- How does Romans 8:28 reshape how you interpret confusing or painful seasons when you still love the Lord?
- What is the difference between God being silent and God being absent? How do these passages help you distinguish them?
- Why can timing be as important as the instruction itself (not only what to do, but when to do it)?
- How can God’s restraint function as protection rather than punishment?

## Application

- Which of the three meanings of silence most fits your current season (formation, alignment, or protection), and why?
- What is one way you will ‘train the vessel’ this month—spiritually, relationally, or practically?

## Application (cont.)

- Is there a decision you are tempted to force prematurely? What would patient obedience look like this week?
- How will you practice asking 'according to God's will' (1 John 5:14–15) without slipping into passivity?
- Who around you might need comfort and perspective about delay, and how could you share these biblical categories wisely?

## Prayer Focus

- Give me patience and steadiness when You are quiet.
- Form my character and readiness for what You will entrust to me.
- Align my requests with Your will and Your timing.
- Protect me from unseen dangers and lead me in wise obedience.

## Next Step

Choose one area where you sense delay, then pray through it using 1 John 5:14–15 and take one concrete step of faithful formation while you wait.

## Conclusion

God's silence can be an advantage when understood rightly: God may be shaping you, arranging necessary factors, or fighting battles you cannot see. Root waiting in Scripture, pursue formation, refuse to force timing, and pray with confidence by aligning requests with God's will (1 John 5:14–15).