

A person wearing a grey hooded cloak sits on the grass in a field, holding a long wooden staff. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a setting sun, which is partially obscured by a large tree on the left. The background shows a line of trees and a hazy horizon.

A Heart Like
God's

Part II: In Season or Out of Season

1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Timothy 4:1-2

NASB95

2 preach the word; *be ready in season and out of season*; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

The circumstances of our lives do not determine our calling. Dark times are not the time to be holding out on our ministry.

In fact, it is in our
weakness that His strength
becomes perfected in us,
and some of our best
fruit is borne in times of
darkness.

1 So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam (*“justice”*); and when his brothers and all his father’s household heard *of it*, they went down there to him.

1 Samuel 22:1–2

NASB95

2 Everyone who was **in distress**, and everyone who was **in debt**, and everyone who was **discontented** gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him.

Our fruit is not judged by
the "quality" of those who
are sent to us, but what
happens to them **after**
they have been with us.

Jesus chose 12 men who did not seem to have the potential to be leaders of saints, and he made them into apostles.

David took an ever
growing number of those
rejected by society, and
turned many of them into
mighty men.

8 These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: **Josheb-basshebeth** a Tahchemonite, chief of the captains, he was called **Adino the Eznite**, because of eight hundred slain by him at one time;

2 Samuel 23:8–13

NASB95

9 and after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there to battle and the men of Israel had withdrawn.

10 He arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary and clung to the sword, and the LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to strip *the slain*.

11 Now after him was **Shammah the son of Agee a Hararite**. And the Philistines were gathered into a troop where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the people fled from the Philistines.

12 But he took his stand in the midst of the plot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the LORD brought about a great victory.

13 Then three of the thirty chief men went down and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam, while the troop of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim.

The only thing about the mighty men that was more impressive than their skills as warriors was two character traits they learned from David: Loyalty and Honor.

13 Then three of the thirty chief men went down and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam, while the troop of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim.

2 Samuel 23:13–17

NASB95

14 David was then in the stronghold, while the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

15 David had a craving and said, “Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate!”

16 So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, and drew water from the well of Bethlehem which was by the gate, and took *it* and brought *it* to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD;

17 and he said, "Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this. *Shall I drink the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?*" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

11 Then David took hold of his
clothes and tore them, *and so also did
all the men who were with him.*

2 Samuel 1:11-12

NASB95

12 *They mourned and wept and fasted
until evening for Saul and his son
Jonathan and for the people of the
LORD and the house of Israel,
because they had fallen by the sword.*

When we follow after
God's heart, we can say,
"Follow me as I follow
Christ."

even while carrying our
imperfections.

We can reproduce in others
the Kingdom fruit we

carry

even when we are not

"in season."

In times of darkness, do not permit the weaknesses being revealed to define you. Continue to pour in your strength to those God brings your way.