

What Will You Do with the Time You've Been Given?

We are so blessed to have seen another year come and go. As perilous as the times appear, we are extraordinarily privileged to be living in this space in history, where we have seen some of the most dynamic moves of God. He continues to oversee his children in a mighty way.

It's very common around the beginning of the year for people to say *"this time I'm going to get it right. I'm determined to stick to my New Year's resolution."* They feel thankful to have made it through yet another year, but there's also the feeling of disappointment that they perhaps didn't accomplish something they wanted to. Another year presents an opportunity to get it right. It brings an urge for a new sense of direction, a new purpose, and a fresh start to try and make it to the finish line. You may decide to pick up that book to read that you've put off for so long, or join the gym around the corner. Maybe you'll decide to finally go back to school and work on that degree. All of these things are wonderful ways to jumpstart the new year or to reprioritize your life in a direction that feels right to you.

One of the things that we seldom factor in as we take on new goals is the time we actually have to devote to them. We have 24 hours each day, and for most of us the days seem to begin and end in the same way. At least 8-10 hours of it are spent working. Another 6-8 hours are spent sleeping, and the rest is getting to and from work, taking care of ourselves and addressing the needs of our families. Before you have a chance to catch your breath the day is almost over.

You'll hear people say things like *"where did the day go"*. It's true, the week can zip by like nothing. Another day, then another week, and before you know it the month has gone by without you taking notice of what went on in your life. Where did you spend all that time?

2Timothy 1:9 NLT

It is God who saved us and chose us to live a holy life. He did this not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan long before the world began--to show his love and kindness to us through Christ Jesus.

I think the best way to approach any new goal is to first ask yourself "*What am I doing with the time I've been GIVEN?*" This question will put things in perspective because it causes us to see time as a gift from God, rather than an entitlement. He chose us to live a life that is holy, not because we deserved it, but because He purposed us to get some things done on this earth; we are an integral component to His plan. That is what makes this gift of time so important. And like all gifts from God, time must be used wisely.

God has given us an example to follow through the life of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ. It is one that He hopes all humans will follow. By following the example of Christ, we have the ability to leave a footprint of love everywhere we go. Love is power, and walking it's path is what maximizes our resources of time and energy.

Each breath we take ought to be filled with purpose. Look at what it says in Psalm 37:6 and Proverbs 3:6

Psalm 37:5 NLT

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

Proverbs 3:6 NLT

Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

If ever you need a blueprint for how to jumpstart your life or how to prioritize it, God's Word is it. As you look at your schedule and think about it honestly, you may not find the time to read the book you've been meaning to read, or to go back to school for that degree you think you need to move to the next level. But God has a purpose and a plan for your life. He knows where you need to be and when you need to be there. He has given you the example of Jesus Christ to ensure that you are always right on schedule. So before you unwrap God's gift of time, look at the instructions that He has given for its use. Take a look at 1Peter 4:

1 Peter 4:1-3 NKJV

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Today is the start of a new day; it holds endless possibilities. God has given us a new beginning to get it right as soon as we wake up in the morning. What do you do with the time you've been given today? Do you repeat past mistakes? Do you wake up with a new song in your heart, or are you anxious about what the day holds? Are you thinking about the next big idea or the dream that's been tugging at your every waking moment? Whatever it is that you want to do, know that God has made a way for you to get it done,

but remember that like Christ, we can no longer live the rest of our time on this earth chiefly concerned with its rewards. 1 Peter 4:3 hit it right on the money when it says that we've spent enough of our time doing that. It goes on to tell us to have an earnest and disciplined prayer life, and to continue to show a deep love for others. It then reminds us that God has given us gifts to serve and help others, and we ought to "*Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.*" (1Peter 4:11 NLT)

We have to constantly shift our thinking and the intents of our hearts and minds to God's agenda. Our desires can change sometimes from day to day or moment to moment, but God's Plan and Will never changes. It is about love, and love never fails. (1Corinthians 13:8) Every day we are given the opportunity to share in the legacy of Christ Jesus. Plant seeds of love and light in all you do and in so doing you will be astonished at how much you get done, and how much more time you'll have to pursue anything you wish.

Many Blessings,
Kim