



redeeming the time

ephesians 5:16



DEVOTIONAL



Evangelism USA is delighted to provide for you this daily devotional booklet as a part of your participation in our 2026 EVUSA Leadership Gathering. Our theme is Redeeming the Time taken from Ephesians 5:16. This compilation of devotionals centers around the subject of time, the value and urgency of time and our responsibility to be good stewards of the time we have.

Our deep appreciation to Rev. Ed Garvin who is our key speaker at this year's Gathering. He graciously provided these devotionals for our benefit and insight. This is quality information and we highly encourage you to take advantage of the truths and scriptural lessons contained.

Grace & Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darryl Bryant". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

LIVING WITH ETERNAL URGENCY

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” - Ephesians 5:15-16

Paul’s words to the Ephesian church carry a weight that should arrest our attention. He’s not offering casual suggestions for better time management or productivity hacks. Instead, he’s issuing a clarion call to live with intentionality in a world that constantly threatens to pull us off course.

Notice the urgency in his language: “Be very careful.” The Greek word here suggests walking with precision, watching your step like someone navigating treacherous terrain. This isn’t paranoia—it’s wisdom. Paul understood what we often forget: every moment matters, and how we spend our days ultimately determines how we spend our lives.

The contrast he draws is stark—wise versus unwise living. Unwise people drift through life reactively, allowing circumstances, culture, and convenience to dictate their choices. They scroll endlessly, binge mindlessly, and procrastinate habitually. They know what matters but somehow never get around to it. Days blur into weeks, weeks into years, and suddenly they wonder where the time went.

Wise living looks radically different. It means making deliberate choices about how we invest our hours. It means saying no to good things so we can say yes to the best things. It means recognizing that time, unlike money, cannot be earned back once it’s spent.

“Making the most of every opportunity” literally translates to “redeeming the time” or “buying up the opportunities.” Picture a shrewd merchant in the marketplace, alert and ready to seize valuable opportunities when they appear. That’s how we should approach each day—vigilant, discerning, ready to act when God opens doors for kingdom purposes.

But why such urgency? Paul explains: “because the days are evil.” We live in a fallen world where darkness constantly competes for our attention and allegiance. Distractions abound. Entertainment is endless. The urgent crowds out the important. Evil doesn’t always

announce itself with obvious temptations; often it simply steals our time through trivial pursuits that leave us spiritually empty and Kingdom-ineffective.

This passage isn't meant to burden us with guilt or drive us to frantic busyness. Rather, it's a loving call to live purposefully. God has given you this day—these specific hours—as a gift and a stewardship. What will you do with them?

Redeeming the time means prioritizing prayer over scrolling. It means having that difficult conversation you've been avoiding. It means serving that neighbor, mentoring that younger believer, sharing the gospel with that coworker. It means choosing presence over distraction when your spouse or children need you.

It also means rest—true rest in God's presence, not just numbing ourselves with entertainment. Even Jesus withdrew to pray, understanding that redeeming time sometimes means stepping away from activity to abide in the Father.

As you move through today, pause regularly to ask: Am I walking wisely? Am I seizing the opportunities God is placing before me? Am I allowing the evil of this age—whether blatant sin or subtle distraction—to steal my time?

Your days are numbered. None of us knows how many remain. But this day—this present moment—is yours. Walk carefully. Live wisely. Redeem the time.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, forgive me for the times I've squandered the precious gift of time You've entrusted to me. Open my eyes to see each day as the treasure it truly is. Give me wisdom to discern what matters most and courage to say no to the distractions that pull me away from Your purposes. Help me walk carefully, alert to the opportunities You place before me to love, serve, and glorify You. In the busyness of life, teach me to abide in You, finding my rest and strength in Your presence. May my days count for eternity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WISDOM IN THE WATCHING WORLD

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” - Colossians 4:5

The world is watching. Whether we realize it or not, our lives are being observed by those who don’t yet know Christ. Coworkers notice how we respond under pressure. Neighbors see how we treat our families. Cashiers and servers experience our patience—or lack thereof. In every interaction, we’re either opening doors to the gospel or closing them.

Paul’s instruction to the Colossian believers speaks directly to this reality. He calls us to exercise wisdom in our dealings with “outsiders”—those outside the faith. This isn’t about being fake or manipulative; it’s about being thoughtful and intentional in how we represent Christ to a skeptical world.

What does wisdom look like in practice? It means choosing our words carefully, knowing when to speak and when to listen. It means responding to hostility with grace rather than defensiveness. It means living with integrity in the mundane moments—paying our bills on time, doing excellent work, keeping our commitments. These seemingly small things carry enormous weight in establishing credibility for the gospel.

Consider the grocery store clerk who’s dealt with rude customers all day. Your kind words and genuine smile might be the only reflection of Christ’s love she encounters. Think about the coworker who watches how you handle disappointment when passed over for promotion. Your gracious response speaks volumes about the sufficiency of Christ in your life.

Paul then adds that crucial phrase: “make the most of every opportunity.” Here again is that theme of redeeming the time, but now with specific application to evangelism and witness. God orchestrates divine appointments throughout our days—the struggling single mom in the checkout line, the anxious student at the coffee shop, the lonely elderly person on your street. These aren’t random encounters; they’re opportunities.

But here’s the challenge: we can’t make the most of opportunities we don’t even notice. How often do we move through our days so distracted, so absorbed in our own concerns, that we miss the

person right in front of us? We're scrolling our phones while divine appointments pass us by.

Making the most of every opportunity requires presence. It requires eyes to see people as God sees them—lost sheep in need of a shepherd, hungry souls longing for bread they can't name. It requires courage to step out of our comfort zones and engage, even when it's inconvenient or awkward.

This wisdom also means knowing your audience. What connects with one person might alienate another. The college student wrestling with doubt needs different engagement than the elderly person facing mortality. Wisdom discerns the need and responds appropriately, always pointing toward Christ but doing so with sensitivity and relevance.

The beautiful truth is that God doesn't expect us to manufacture opportunities or force conversations. He simply asks us to live wisely, walk attentively, and be ready. When we do, He brings the opportunities. Our job is to recognize them and respond in faith.

Today, ask God to open your eyes. That person who irritates you might be your mission field. That conversation you've been avoiding might be a divine appointment. Walk wisely. The world is watching, and eternity hangs in the balance.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I've been so consumed with my own agenda that I've missed the opportunities You've placed before me. Give me eyes to see people as You see them—precious souls in need of Your love. Grant me wisdom to know how to live and speak in ways that draw others to You rather than push them away. Help me be fully present in each moment, attentive to Your Spirit's prompting. Make my life a clear reflection of Your grace, patience, and truth. Use me today as Your witness in this watching world. In Your name, Amen.

THE URGENCY OF GOODNESS

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

- Galatians 6:10

Opportunities don’t wait. They arrive unannounced, linger briefly, and then vanish. The neighbor who needs help moving will find someone else. The single mom struggling with groceries will figure it out on her own. The grieving coworker will assume no one cares. Paul understood this when he penned these words to the Galatian church: “As we have opportunity...”

The implication is clear—opportunities for doing good are timesensitive. They come and go. We either seize them or lose them. Tomorrow’s good intentions don’t redeem today’s missed chances.

Notice Paul doesn’t say “if” we have opportunity, but “as” we have it. He assumes opportunities will come. God weaves them into the fabric of our daily lives. The question isn’t whether we’ll encounter chances to do good, but whether we’ll recognize and act on them when they appear.

The scope of our goodness is beautifully expansive: “all people.” Our kindness shouldn’t be reserved only for those who look like us, think like us, or vote like us. The gospel breaks down barriers and compels us toward radical generosity. The difficult neighbor deserves our help. The political opponent deserves our respect. The stranger deserves our compassion. In doing good to all, we reflect the heart of God who “causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good.”

Yet Paul adds an important qualifier: “especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” This isn’t favoritism; it’s priority. The church is meant to be a countercultural community where love is tangible, burdens are shared, and no one suffers alone. When believers care for one another sacrificially, the watching world takes notice. Jesus himself said our love for one another would be the mark that identifies us as His disciples.

How many needs exist right now within your church family? Single parents stretched too thin. Elderly saints unable to maintain their homes. Young couples drowning in medical bills. Widows eating

meals alone. These aren't abstract problems—they're opportunities for embodied love. When we ignore them, we not only fail our brothers and sisters; we diminish our witness to the world.

Doing good requires more than warm feelings. It demands action—sometimes inconvenient, costly action. It might mean giving your Saturday to help someone move. It might mean opening your home to provide a meal. It might mean dipping into savings to meet someone's urgent need. It might simply mean showing up, being present, offering the ministry of your attention and care.

But here's what we often miss: doing good is not a burden to bear; it's a privilege to embrace. We get to participate in God's redemptive work in the world. We become His hands and feet, His tangible expression of love. And in the process, we're transformed. Nothing combats selfishness, anxiety, and spiritual lethargy quite like sacrificial service.

Today, God will present you with opportunities to do good. Some will be obvious; others will require spiritual attentiveness. Some will be convenient; others will cost you something. The question is: will you seize them?

Don't wait for perfect circumstances or convenient timing. As you have opportunity—right now, today, in this moment—do good.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, open my eyes to see the opportunities for doing good that You place before me today. Forgive me for the times I've walked past needs out of convenience, busyness, or indifference. Give me a heart that genuinely cares for others, both within Your church and beyond it. Help me see interruptions as divine appointments and needs as opportunities to demonstrate Your love. Grant me generosity with my time, resources, and energy. Make me quick to act, slow to make excuses, and eager to serve. Let my life overflow with the goodness that comes from knowing You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LESSONS FROM THE SMALLEST CLASSROOM

“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.” - Proverbs 6:6-8

God’s curriculum for wisdom sometimes comes from unexpected teachers. Here, Solomon sends the lazy person to perhaps the humblest classroom imaginable—an anthill. The message is both humbling and profound: if you want to learn about diligence, initiative, and foresight, observe a creature so small you could crush it underfoot.

The word “sluggard” stings. It’s not a gentle rebuke but a sharp confrontation. The sluggard is someone who knows what needs to be done but continually postpones it. They have plans, intentions, and good ideas—tomorrow. They’ll start that project, repair that relationship, pursue that calling—someday. Meanwhile, life passes them by, opportunities evaporate, and potential withers on the vine of procrastination.

Now consider the ant. This tiny creature embodies everything the sluggard lacks. Notice what Solomon emphasizes: the ant works without external motivation. It has “no commander, no overseer or ruler.” No one stands over it with threats or rewards. No one micromanages its efforts. The ant is self-motivated, driven by instinct and wisdom to do what needs doing.

How convicting this is for us. We often wait for external pressure before we act—a looming deadline, an angry spouse, a financial crisis, a health scare. We need someone to push us, remind us, hold us accountable. But mature Christians, like the wise ant, develop internal motivation. They do what’s right because it’s right, not because someone is watching.

The ant’s wisdom shows itself in timing and preparation. During summer—the season of abundance—it’s already thinking about winter. While food is plentiful, it gathers and stores. It doesn’t squander the harvest season sleeping or playing. It understands that seasons change, that today’s abundance may become tomorrow’s scarcity, and that the time to prepare is now, not later.

This principle applies across every dimension of life. Spiritually, are we storing up God's Word in our hearts during seasons of peace, knowing trials will come? Relationally, are we investing in our marriages and families during good times, building reserves of love and trust that will sustain us through difficulties? Financially, are we practicing stewardship and savings, or living as if the harvest will last forever?

The sluggard's problem isn't laziness alone—it's a failure of vision. They can't see beyond the present moment. The ant, tiny as it is, possesses a wisdom the sluggard lacks: the ability to connect today's actions with tomorrow's consequences.

But here's the hope embedded in this proverb: change is possible. Solomon doesn't say, "Mock the sluggard." He says, "Go to the ant... and be wise." It's an invitation, not a condemnation. You can learn. You can change. You can develop the initiative and foresight God desires for you.

What harvest is God providing in your life right now? What opportunities exist today that may not be there tomorrow? What work needs doing that you've been postponing? The ant doesn't wait for perfect conditions or motivation. It simply does what wisdom requires.

Today, take a lesson from the smallest of teachers. Work while it's day. Prepare for tomorrow. Seize the opportunities before you. Be wise.

PRAYER:

Father God, convict me of the ways I've been sluggish in spirit and action. Forgive me for squandering seasons of opportunity through procrastination and laziness. Give me the wisdom of the ant—initiative without needing constant supervision, foresight to prepare for future seasons, and diligence to do today what needs doing. Help me connect my present choices with future consequences. Break the patterns of delay and excuse-making in my life. Instill in me a self-motivated obedience that flows from loving You and stewarding well the life You've given me. Make me faithful in the harvest seasons You provide. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DO IT NOW WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.” - Ecclesiastes 9:10

Solomon, in his accumulated wisdom, delivers a sobering truth: our window of opportunity is closing. Death is the great equalizer, the final deadline that renders all procrastination meaningless. The work you postpone today may never get done. The love you delay expressing may go unspoken. The dreams you defer may die with you.

This isn't meant to be morbid—it's meant to be motivating. Solomon is shaking us awake from the dangerous illusion that we have unlimited time. We don't. None of us do. And once we cross into eternity, the opportunities of this life are forever gone. “Whatever your hand finds to do”—notice the present tense, the immediacy. Not whatever you might do someday, or whatever you're thinking about doing, but whatever is right in front of you now, within your reach, available to your hand. This is the work God has placed before you today. It might be mundane: changing diapers, answering emails, doing dishes. It might be significant: writing that book, starting that ministry, having that crucial conversation. Whatever it is, it deserves your full engagement.

“Do it with all your might”—this phrase demolishes the excuse of half-hearted effort. Solomon isn't advocating for obsessive workaholicism, but for wholehearted devotion to the task at hand. Whether you're preaching to thousands or serving one person, whether you're leading a company or sweeping a floor, do it fully, excellently, completely. Give it everything you have.

This principle applies to every sphere of life. In your marriage, love with all your might—don't coast on autopilot or let affection grow cold. In your parenting, invest with all your might—these years with your children are fleeting. In your work, serve with all your might—it's unto the Lord, not merely for human approval. In your ministry, give with all your might—eternal souls hang in the balance.

The urgency intensifies when we consider Solomon's reasoning: where you're going, there is no working, planning, knowledge, or

wisdom. Death ends our earthly opportunities. You can't disciple someone from the grave. You can't reconcile a broken relationship from beyond. You can't share the gospel with your neighbor after you're gone. The field of your earthly life will one day be harvested for the final time.

This doesn't mean living in frantic anxiety, trying to do everything at once. Rather, it means bringing intentionality and passion to whatever season and calling God has placed you in right now. It means refusing to sleepwalk through your one precious life. It means rejecting the paralysis of perfectionism that says, "If I can't do it perfectly, I won't do it at all."

Some reading this have been waiting for the perfect time, the ideal circumstances, the complete clarity before acting. Solomon's message is clear: the perfect time is now. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it. Do it today. Do it with everything you have.

Because tomorrow is not promised, and the grave accepts no resumes.

PRAYER:

Lord, forgive me for treating life as if I have unlimited time. Wake me from the stupor of complacency and procrastination. Show me clearly what You've placed within my reach today—the relationships to nurture, the work to complete, the kindness to extend, the truth to speak. Give me strength to do it with all my might, not halfheartedly or grudgingly, but with wholehearted devotion. Help me number my days and gain a heart of wisdom. Let the reality of my mortality motivate me, not toward fear, but toward faithful, passionate living. May I finish well the work You've given me to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY

“He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.” - Proverbs 10:5

Farming is unforgiving. Miss the harvest window, and a year’s work rots in the field. Sleep through planting season, and your family goes hungry. Ancient agrarian societies understood what we modern people often forget: timing matters, and some opportunities don’t come twice.

Solomon presents us with two sons. Both have the same field, the same crop, the same opportunity. The difference isn’t in their circumstances but in their response. One recognizes the season and acts accordingly. The other pulls the covers over his head while opportunity withers on the vine.

The prudent son understands that summer—the harvest season—demands action. This is not the time for leisure, excuses, or delay. The crop is ripe. The weather window is narrow. What needs doing must be done now, not tomorrow, not next week. So he rises early, works hard, and brings in the harvest. His diligence honors his father, provides for his family, and secures their future.

The sleeping son, by contrast, becomes a source of shame. He’s not necessarily wicked or rebellious—he’s just lazy. He knows the harvest is ready. He simply doesn’t feel like getting up. Maybe he’s tired. Maybe he’ll do it tomorrow. Maybe someone else will handle it. But harvests don’t wait, and tomorrow never comes. His slothfulness brings disgrace because it wastes what others labored to grow.

How does this ancient proverb speak to us today? We may not gather literal crops, but we all face harvest seasons—times when opportunity ripens and demands our response. These are the moments when God opens doors, presents clear next steps, or places responsibilities squarely in our hands.

Perhaps it’s the season of young children in your home. These years are the harvest time for shaping hearts, building memories, and instilling faith. You can’t reclaim them once they’re gone. Will you be present and engaged, or will you sleep through this irreplaceable season, distracted by screens and career ambitions?

Maybe it's a season of unusual spiritual hunger in your heart or your community. God is moving, people are open, opportunities for ministry abound. This is harvest time. Will you step up and serve, or make excuses about being too busy, too tired, too inadequate?

Perhaps it's a relational harvest season—a window to reconcile with an estranged family member, to share Christ with a seeking friend, to mentor someone younger in the faith. These opportunities have expiration dates. Hearts that are open today may harden tomorrow. People who are here today may be gone.

The tragedy isn't that the sleeping son faced difficult circumstances. The tragedy is that he had everything he needed—he simply didn't act. How many of us will stand before God having slept through our harvest seasons? How many opportunities will we have squandered not through inability but through inaction?

God is sovereign over seasons. He brings them in His timing. But He expects us to recognize them and respond with diligence. The prudent person asks: What season am I in? What is ripe for harvest in my life right now? What opportunities exist today that may not be here tomorrow?

Don't be the one who sleeps while the harvest rots. Be prudent. Be alert. Be active. The season is short, and the fields are waiting.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, give me eyes to recognize the seasons You orchestrate in my life. Help me discern when it's time to plant, time to wait, and time to harvest. Forgive me for the opportunities I've slept through—the relationships I've neglected, the callings I've ignored, the open doors I've been too lazy or fearful to walk through. Shake me from spiritual lethargy and comfortable complacency. Give me the diligence to act when action is required, the wisdom to know what season I'm in, and the courage to respond faithfully. Don't let me bring disgrace to Your name by wasting the harvest seasons You provide. Make me a prudent servant who honors You with timely obedience. In Jesus' name, Amen.

READY OR NOT

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” - Matthew 25:13

Jesus tells a story that should unsettle us. Ten bridesmaids wait for a wedding party. All of them have lamps. All of them know the bridegroom is coming. All of them wait with anticipation. Yet when he finally arrives, only half are ready. The unprepared pound on the door, pleading for entry, but hear the most chilling words imaginable: “Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.”

What separates the wise from the foolish? It’s not that the foolish bridesmaids didn’t have lamps—they did. It’s not that they weren’t invited—they were. It’s not even that they didn’t show up—they came. The difference was preparation. The wise brought extra oil. The foolish assumed what they had would be enough.

When the bridegroom delayed, everyone dozed off. Both the wise and foolish slept. But when the cry rang out at midnight—“Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!”—the difference became stark. The wise trimmed their lamps and were ready. The foolish discovered too late that their lamps were going out. They had no reserves.

Here’s what makes this parable so sobering: the foolish bridesmaids tried to remedy the situation. They didn’t give up. They went to buy oil. But timing matters. Some preparations can’t be made in the moment of crisis. You can’t cram for eternity. When the door shut, it stayed shut. Their frantic knocking changed nothing.

Jesus is speaking about His return, but the principle extends to every season of opportunity in our lives. Are we living with readiness, or are we coasting on fumes? Are we maintaining our relationship with Christ daily, or are we assuming our past experiences will carry us through? Are we building spiritual reserves through prayer, Scripture, and obedience, or are we spiritually depleted, running on empty?

The bridegroom’s delay is significant. He didn’t come when expected. This tests everyone’s preparation. It’s easy to stay alert for an hour. It’s much harder to maintain readiness when the wait stretches on—days, months, years. Many start well but grow weary. They assume they have time. They’ll get serious about their faith

later. They'll deal with that sin eventually. They'll reconcile that relationship someday.

But opportunity doesn't announce its final departure. The door closes when it closes. Death doesn't send a calendar invitation. Christ's return won't be rescheduled to accommodate our lack of preparation. The bridegroom comes when he comes.

Notice also that the wise couldn't share their oil. This isn't selfishness—it's impossibility. Some things can't be borrowed or transferred. You can't borrow someone else's relationship with Jesus. Your parents' faith won't save you. Your spouse's devotion won't carry you. You must have your own oil, your own genuine walk with Christ, your own prepared heart.

Jesus concludes with unmistakable clarity: "Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." This isn't a call to paranoid anxiety but to consistent faithfulness. Live ready. Don't presume on tomorrow. Cultivate your relationship with Christ today. Deal with sin now, not later. Make peace with that person while you can. Share the gospel while people will still listen.

The bridegroom is coming. The only question is: will you be ready?

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, I confess that I often live as though I have unlimited time to get my spiritual life in order. I procrastinate on obedience, delay repentance, and coast on past experiences rather than pursuing You daily. Forgive me for my foolish presumption. Give me wisdom to prepare my heart now, to build spiritual reserves through consistent time in Your Word and prayer, to deal with sin immediately rather than letting it linger. Help me live with readiness, not anxious fear, but joyful expectation of Your return. Don't let me be caught unprepared when You come or when my final opportunities arrive. Fill my lamp with oil. Keep my heart awake and watchful. I want to hear "Well done" not "I never knew you." Come, Lord Jesus. Find me ready. Amen.

DRESSED AND READY

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.” - Luke 12:35-36

Jesus paints a vivid picture: servants waiting through the night, fully dressed for work, lamps trimmed and burning, alert and ready to spring into action the moment their master arrives. This isn’t a passive, drowsy vigil. This is active, expectant readiness—the posture of people who believe their master’s return is imminent and want to be found faithful.

“Be dressed ready for service” literally means “let your loins be girded”—an image of tucking your robe into your belt so you can move quickly without tripping. It’s the stance of someone prepared for immediate action, not someone lounging in pajamas hoping for a few more minutes’ sleep. Jesus is calling us to live in a state of constant readiness, not spiritual lethargy.

The lamps must keep burning. Darkness surrounds. The master is coming at an unknown hour. These servants can’t afford to let their light go out, to run out of oil, to be caught unprepared. The burning lamp represents sustained spiritual vitality—a life continuously fueled by prayer, Scripture, obedience, and fellowship with Christ. It’s not enough to have been on fire for God once. The question is: are you burning now?

Then Jesus adds something remarkable: “It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.” Imagine that—the master serving the faithful servants! This reversal captures the heart of the gospel. Jesus, the King of Kings, came not to be served but to serve. And those who faithfully watch for Him will experience His reward beyond anything they could imagine.

But here’s the urgency: “Understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” The thief doesn’t announce his arrival. Neither will Christ’s return

follow our timeline or expectations. He might come in the first watch, the second, or the third. He might come when we're young and vigorous or old and tired. He might come when life feels settled or when everything is in chaos. The point is: we don't know. And that not-knowing should shape how we live every single day.

This isn't a call to abandon normal life and stare at the sky. It's a call to live with eternal perspective saturating our daily activities. It means working diligently as unto the Lord, knowing He might return today. It means keeping short accounts with God and others, not letting sin or bitterness accumulate. It means investing in what matters eternally, not squandering our lives on what will burn.

Are you dressed and ready? Is your lamp burning? If Jesus returned tonight, would He find you faithfully serving, or spiritually asleep? If death knocked on your door tomorrow, would you be ready to meet your Master?

Don't wait. Don't assume you have time. Stay alert. Keep your lamp burning. Live ready. Because He is coming at an hour you do not expect.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, I confess that I often live as though this world is all there is, as though I have endless time to get right with You. Forgive me for spiritual drowsiness and complacency. Awaken my heart to the reality of Your imminent return. Help me live dressed and ready—eager to serve, alert to Your promptings, faithful in the tasks You've given me. Keep the lamp of my faith burning brightly through consistent time with You, immediate obedience, and wholehearted devotion. Don't let me be caught unprepared or unfaithful when You return. Give me grace to live today as though it might be my last, investing in what matters eternally. I long to hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Find me watching and ready. Amen.

FAITH THAT MOVES

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” - James 2:17

James doesn’t mince words. He’s addressing a church that’s become comfortable with a faith that costs nothing, changes nothing, and does nothing. They have orthodoxy without orthopraxy—right beliefs without right actions. They affirm truth with their lips while their lives tell a different story. And James declares bluntly: that kind of faith is dead.

Dead faith looks religious. It knows the right answers, attends the right services, uses the right vocabulary. It can articulate theology and quote Scripture. But it remains inert, lifeless, producing nothing. Like a corpse that once lived but now lies still, dead faith may have the form of religion but lacks the animating power of genuine trust in Christ.

James illustrates this with a devastating example: “Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?” The scenario is painfully familiar. We see need. We feel momentary sympathy. We offer spiritual-sounding platitudes. And then we do absolutely nothing.

This isn’t compassion—it’s cruelty dressed in religious language. It’s easier to say “I’ll pray for you” than to write a check, open our home, or sacrifice our time. But James exposes such empty words for what they are: evidence of dead faith. Real faith—living, genuine faith—moves us to action. It opens our wallets, our schedules, and our hearts.

Understanding this truth should shake us from complacency. How often do we encounter opportunities to demonstrate our faith through concrete action and do nothing? The homeless person we pass without acknowledgment. The struggling single parent we “mean to help” but never do. The elderly church member who eats alone while we’re too busy to visit. The neighbor going through crisis while we remain comfortably distant.

We're skilled at justifying our inaction. "I don't have time." "Someone else will help." "I don't know what to say." "My contribution won't make a difference." But these excuses reveal the condition of our faith. If our faith in Christ is truly alive, it compels us outward, beyond ourselves, into the messy reality of loving actual people in tangible ways.

James isn't teaching salvation by works. He's teaching that genuine saving faith inevitably produces works. Faith and works aren't competing sources of salvation; they're inseparable partners. Faith is the root; works are the fruit. You can't have one without the other. A tree without fruit is dead. Faith without deeds is dead.

This should prompt serious self-examination. What evidence exists that your faith is alive? Not what you believe, but how you live. Not what you say, but what you do. Has your faith in Christ actually changed how you spend your money, your time, your energy? Does it move you toward people in need or away from them?

The opportunities are everywhere. The question is whether our faith is alive enough to respond. Dead faith observes, sympathizes, and moves on. Living faith sees need and acts. It doesn't wait for convenient timing or comfortable circumstances. It simply responds because genuine faith cannot remain inactive.

Is your faith alive? Let your actions answer.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, expose any deadness in my faith. Forgive me for the times I've hidden behind religious words while doing nothing to help those in need. Convict me when I offer empty platitudes instead of tangible assistance. Give me eyes to see the opportunities around me and a heart that moves immediately to respond. Break through my excuses, my comfort, and my self-centeredness. Let my faith be evidenced not merely by what I profess but by how I live—by the love I show, the needs I meet, the sacrifices I make. Transform my belief into action, my theology into practice, my words into deeds. I don't want a faith that merely sounds Christian—I want a faith that lives, breathes, and moves because You are alive in me. Make my faith authentic, active, and undeniably alive. In Your name, Amen.

EXCELLENCE OPENS DOORS

“Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.” - Proverbs 22:29

Excellence has a magnetic quality. It attracts attention, opens doors, and creates opportunities that mediocrity never finds. Solomon observes a timeless principle: skillful work elevates people to positions of influence and honor. The person who masters their craft, who pursues excellence rather than settling for “good enough,” will find themselves in places they never imagined.

But notice what Solomon emphasizes—not natural talent alone, but skill. Skill is talent refined through discipline, practice, and dedication. It’s the result of showing up day after day, doing the work even when inspiration wanes, pursuing mastery when others settle for competence. Anyone can coast on natural ability for a while, but skill is forged in the furnace of consistent, diligent effort.

This principle transcends vocations. Whether you’re a carpenter or a CEO, a teacher or a technician, a homemaker or a healthcare worker, the call is the same: be skilled in what you do. Don’t be content with mediocrity. Don’t do just enough to get by. Pursue excellence as an act of worship. Because ultimately, whatever your hands find to do, you’re doing it for the Lord.

When you approach your work with this mindset, something shifts. You’re no longer merely punching a clock or earning a paycheck. You’re stewarding the abilities God gave you, representing Christ in your workplace, and preparing for opportunities you can’t yet see. Excellence in small things qualifies you for larger responsibilities. Faithfulness in obscurity positions you for influence.

“They will serve before kings”—this isn’t a promise of fame or fortune, but of expanded influence. Excellence creates platforms. Joseph’s administrative skill elevated him from prisoner to prime minister. Daniel’s wisdom brought him before multiple kings. David’s courage with a sling prepared him for a throne. In each case, their excellence in present responsibilities opened doors to future opportunities.

Consider this practically. The employee who consistently delivers quality work gets noticed. The craftsman known for integrity and excellence develops a reputation that brings clients. The minister

who faithfully serves a small congregation may one day be entrusted with a larger flock. The parent who diligently raises children with wisdom is preparing the next generation of leaders. Excellence compounds over time.

But here's what we must remember: we pursue excellence for God's glory, not our own advancement. The moment skill becomes about self-promotion rather than service, we've missed the point. The goal isn't to serve before kings—that's simply the natural consequence. The goal is to honor God by doing our very best with what He's entrusted to us.

So wherever you are today—in a cubicle, a classroom, a construction site, a kitchen—work with skill. Don't phone it in. Don't cut corners. Don't settle for sloppy. Do your work with such excellence that it reflects well on the God you serve. Develop your skills intentionally. Learn continually. Improve consistently.

You may not see the doors your excellence will open. You may not know which "king" is watching. But God sees your faithful work. He honors diligence. And when the time is right, He opens doors that no one can shut.

Do your work skillfully. Trust God with the opportunities.

Excellence always finds its audience.

PRAYER:

Father, forgive me for the times I've been content with mediocrity, doing just enough to get by rather than pursuing excellence. Help me see my work—whatever it is—as an opportunity to honor You and serve others well. Give me the discipline to develop my skills, the humility to keep learning, and the diligence to do my best even when no one is watching. Let my work ethic be a testimony to Your transforming power in my life. I don't seek recognition or advancement for my own glory, but I want to steward well the abilities You've given me. Prepare me through faithfulness in small things for whatever larger opportunities You have planned. Make me someone known for excellence, integrity, and skill, not for my own sake, but so that Your name would be honored through my life and work. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NUMBERING OUR DAYS

*“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
- Psalm 90:12*

Moses, who penned this psalm, understood mortality. He’d watched an entire generation die in the wilderness—faithful people who never reached the Promised Land because they’d squandered their opportunity. He’d seen time run out for thousands. And from that sobering experience, he offers this prayer: “Teach us to number our days.”

We don’t naturally think this way. We live as though we have infinite tomorrows. We postpone important conversations, delay necessary changes, and assume opportunities will wait for us. We waste hours on trivialities while neglecting what matters most. We treat time as though it’s unlimited when, in reality, it’s our most precious and depleting resource.

To “number our days” means to count them, to recognize their limits, to feel their weight. It’s not morbid pessimism—it’s realistic wisdom. You have X number of days on this earth. No more, no less. And that number is shrinking daily. Every sunrise brings you one day closer to your last. This truth should shape everything.

When you truly grasp the brevity of life, priorities clarify. That grudge you’ve been nursing? Life’s too short. That dream you’ve been postponing? Now is the time. That relationship you’ve been neglecting? Tomorrow isn’t guaranteed. That sin you’ve been tolerating? It’s stealing days you can’t afford to lose.

Notice Moses connects numbered days with wisdom: “that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Wisdom isn’t primarily about intelligence or education—it’s about living skillfully in light of eternity. The wise person orders their life according to what matters most. They invest in relationships that last. They pursue purposes that transcend the grave. They make decisions today that they’ll be glad for in eternity.

The foolish person, by contrast, lives for the moment, chasing temporary pleasures and accumulating things they can’t keep. They spend decades building careers, amassing possessions, and pursuing comforts, only to realize too late that none of it transfers to eternity. They trade the permanent for the temporary, the eternal for the immediate.

Earlier in this psalm, Moses writes: “Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.” Seventy or eighty years—that’s roughly 25,000 to 29,000 days. It sounds like a lot until you start subtracting. How many have you already spent? How many remain?

This awareness shouldn’t paralyze us with fear or drive us to frantic activity. Rather, it should focus us. What legacy are you building? What relationships are you investing in? What is God calling you to do that you keep postponing? What needs to change in how you spend your days?

Moses prays for God to teach us this wisdom because it doesn’t come naturally. We need divine help to truly grasp the brevity of life and reorder our priorities accordingly. We need God to open our eyes to see time as the precious gift it is.

So we join Moses in his prayer: Lord, teach us to number our days. Help us feel their weight. Show us their limits. Give us wisdom to invest them well. Because one day—sooner than we think—our final day will come. And we want to have spent our days on what truly mattered.

PRAYER:

Lord God, I confess I often live as though I have unlimited time. I waste days on trivial pursuits while neglecting eternal priorities. Teach me to truly number my days—to feel their brevity, to grasp their preciousness, to understand their limits. Give me a heart of wisdom that knows how to invest time rather than merely spend it. Show me what matters most and give me courage to pursue it. Help me live with urgency without anxiety, with intentionality without obsession. Break the illusion of infinite tomorrows. Let the reality of my mortality drive me not to despair but to purposeful living. I want to stand before You having invested my days wisely—loving deeply, serving faithfully, pursuing what endures. Redeem the time I’ve wasted and sanctify the days I have left. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

THE MIST

“Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” - James 4:14

James asks a question that should stop us in our tracks: “What is your life?” We fill our days with elaborate plans, endless pursuits, and grand ambitions. We build our identities around careers, accumulate possessions, and carefully construct our images. But James cuts through all our pretensions with a startling metaphor: You are a mist.

Have you ever watched morning fog burn away as the sun rises? One moment the valley is shrouded in white; the next, it’s gone without a trace. That’s your life, James says. A brief appearance. A fleeting moment. Here, then vanished. No warning. No permanence. No guarantee of tomorrow.

This metaphor is intentionally humbling. We like to think of ourselves as solid, substantial, permanent. We make five-year plans and thirty-year mortgages. We act as though we’re building monuments that will last. But reality is far more fragile. Every breath is a gift. Every heartbeat is borrowed. Every tomorrow is presumed.

James isn’t being cruel—he’s being truthful. He’s writing to people who were saying, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Sound familiar? How often do we make confident declarations about our future as though we control it? “Next year I’ll finally get in shape.” “After I retire, I’ll have time for what matters.” “Once this project is done, I’ll focus on my family.” “I’ll get serious about my relationship with God... eventually.”

The problem isn’t planning—it’s presumption. It’s living as though tomorrow is guaranteed, as though we have unlimited time to get around to what really matters. It’s the dangerous assumption that we can postpone obedience, delay reconciliation, defer purpose, and still have opportunity later.

But mist doesn’t linger. It doesn’t wait for convenient timing. When the sun rises, it’s gone. So too with life. That conversation you’ve been meaning to have? That apology you’ve been postponing? That

dream God placed in your heart years ago? That call to surrender you keep resisting? Time is not your ally. The mist is already dissipating.

James' words should create holy urgency in our souls. Not frantic anxiety, but focused intentionality. If your life is a mist, then every moment matters. If tomorrow isn't promised, then today is all you have. What are you doing with it?

Consider what you'd do differently if you truly believed you were a mist. Would you hold that grudge? Would you waste hours scrolling mindlessly? Would you keep postponing what God is calling you to do? Would you invest so much energy in accumulating what you can't keep?

The brevity of life should reshape our priorities. It should drive us toward what endures: loving God, serving others, sharing the gospel, building eternal treasure. It should make us quick to forgive, eager to obey, generous with our time and resources. It should remove the luxury of "someday" from our vocabulary.

You are a mist. Brief. Fragile. Fleeting. This truth isn't meant to crush you but to focus you. You have today. Use it wisely. Live it fully. Invest it eternally. Because before you know it, the mist will vanish.

PRAYER:

Father God, the reality of my brevity terrifies and sobers me. I am a mist—here for a moment, then gone. Forgive me for living as though I have unlimited time, for presuming on tomorrow, for postponing what matters most. Let the fragility of my life drive me to what's eternal. Give me courage to have the conversations I've been avoiding, to extend the forgiveness I've been withholding, to pursue the calling I've been resisting. Don't let me waste another day on what doesn't matter. Help me number my days and gain a heart of wisdom. Let the brevity of life clarify my priorities and intensify my devotion to You. I don't know if I have tomorrow, but I have today. Show me how to use it for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOW FLEETING

“Show me, LORD, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.” - Psalm 39:4-5

David makes a bold request: “Show me, LORD, my life’s end.” Most of us avoid thinking about our mortality. We distract ourselves, push the thought away, live in denial. But David does the opposite—he asks God to confront him with the reality of his finite existence. He wants to know, to truly grasp, how fleeting his life is.

Why would anyone pray such a prayer? Because David understood something profound: awareness of life’s brevity is essential to living wisely. When we truly comprehend how short our time is, everything changes. What seemed important suddenly looks trivial. What we’ve been postponing becomes urgent. The fog of distraction lifts, and clarity emerges.

“You have made my days a mere handbreadth”—David uses the width of a hand to measure his entire life. Stretch out your hand and look at it. That’s the span between birth and death. Decades of experience, relationships, achievements, struggles—all compressed into a space smaller than a ruler. From God’s eternal perspective, even the longest human life is barely a blip.

But here’s what hits hardest: “Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.” Notice that phrase—“even those who seem secure.” David isn’t just talking about the frail and vulnerable. He’s including the powerful, the wealthy, the successful, the seemingly invincible. The billionaire with his empire. The athlete in peak condition. The celebrity at the height of fame. The executive who seems untouchable. All of them—mere breath. Here one moment, gone the next.

We build elaborate fortresses of security. We accumulate wealth, purchase insurance, establish networks, maintain our health. These aren’t wrong in themselves, but they become dangerous when they create an illusion of control and permanence. We forget that no amount of money, no level of success, no degree of careful planning can add a single day to our lives. Security is an illusion. Only God determines when our breath runs out.

This sobering truth should radically reorient our lives. If we're merely a breath, what are we breathing for? What's worth the brief span we've been given? Certainly not the things we obsess over—the perfect house, the impressive title, the Instagram-worthy life. Not the grudges we nurse, the offenses we collect, the anxieties we cultivate about things that won't matter in eternity.

David's prayer isn't one of despair—it's one of wisdom. He wants God to teach him what we all need to learn: life is short, and that shortness should shape everything. It should make us quick to love and slow to anger. It should make us generous with our time and resources. It should make us bold in sharing the gospel, knowing that people's opportunities for hearing it are as fleeting as ours are for speaking it.

When you truly grasp that you're but a breath, you stop sweating the small stuff. You forgive faster. You love deeper. You serve more freely. You hold material things loosely and eternal things tightly. You live with the urgency that matches reality.

So join David in his prayer. Ask God to show you how fleeting your life really is. Let that truth awaken you to what matters.

PRAYER:

Lord, I rarely want to face my mortality, but I need to. Show me my life's end. Help me truly grasp how fleeting my days are. Break through my denial and my distractions. Let the reality that I am but a breath reshape how I live. Strip away my false sense of security and my illusions of control. You alone determine the number of my days, and they are fewer than I want to believe. Give me wisdom to invest my brief life in what endures—loving You, loving others, advancing Your kingdom. Don't let me waste my breath on what doesn't matter. Make me quick to forgive, generous to give, eager to serve, and bold to share the hope I have in Christ. My life is a vapor, but it's a vapor You've breathed into existence for Your purposes. Help me fulfill them while I still have breath. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE GOD OF SEASONS

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Solomon, in all his wisdom, understood something we often miss: life operates in seasons. Just as nature cycles through spring, summer, fall, and winter, our lives move through distinct phases, each with its own purpose, opportunities, and demands. Fighting against the season you’re in is as futile as demanding flowers bloom in February or harvest come in spring.

This truth should bring both comfort and urgency. Comfort, because it reminds us that difficult seasons don’t last forever. The season of sleepless nights with infants will pass. The season of caring for aging parents will transition. The season of financial struggle will shift. The season of grief will, in time, give way to renewed joy. Nothing lasts forever except God Himself.

But Solomon’s words also carry urgency: if there’s a season for everything, then there’s also a season when those opportunities end. There’s a season for raising children—and then they’re grown. There’s a season for building a career—and then it’s time to retire. There’s a season for certain ministries, relationships, and callings—and when that season closes, the opportunity is gone.

The tragedy is how often we fail to recognize what season we’re in. We try to live in a past season that’s already ended, clinging to what was instead of embracing what is. Or we rush ahead to a future season, missing the beauty and purpose of the present. The young mother dreams of when her children are older and misses the irreplaceable moments right in front of her. The workaholic promises to focus on family “someday,” not realizing that someday may come when the relationships are already broken.

Wisdom means discerning your season and fully engaging it. If you’re in a season of sowing, sow diligently—even though you can’t yet see the harvest. If you’re in a season of pruning, submit to it—even though it’s painful. If you’re in a season of waiting, wait faithfully—even though it feels unproductive. If you’re in a season of harvest, gather intentionally—because the window won’t stay open forever.

Each season has unique opportunities that won't come again. The season of young children won't return—invest deeply in those formative years. The season of physical strength and mental sharpness is limited—use it while you have it. The season when your aging parents are still with you is precious and finite—don't squander it. The season when your neighbor, coworker, or friend is open to spiritual conversation may be brief—seize it.

Solomon goes on in the following verses to list seasons: “a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot... a time to weep and a time to laugh... a time to keep and a time to throw away... a time to be silent and a time to speak.” Each season requires different responses. Wise people adapt. Foolish people resist.

So what season are you in right now? Have you identified it? Are you fighting it or embracing it? Are you trying to live in a season that's passed or one that hasn't yet arrived? Are you recognizing and seizing the unique opportunities this season offers?

God authors the seasons of your life. Trust His timing. Embrace where you are. And make the most of the opportunities that exist only in this moment.

PRAYER:

Father, You are the God who ordains seasons—in nature and in my life. Give me wisdom to discern what season I'm in right now and grace to fully embrace it rather than resist it. Forgive me for the times I've lived in the past or the future instead of being present in the season You've given me. Help me see the unique opportunities this season holds and give me courage to seize them before they pass. If this is a season of planting, make me faithful to sow. If it's a season of waiting, teach me patience. If it's a season of harvest, give me diligence to gather. If it's a season of pruning, help me trust Your loving hand. Don't let me miss the purpose of this moment by wishing I were somewhere else. Open my eyes to what can only be done now, in this season, while the opportunity still exists. I trust Your timing and Your sovereignty over every season of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WHILE IT IS DAY

“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” - John 9:4

Jesus spoke these words just before healing a man born blind. He was walking with His disciples when they encountered this man, and rather than passing by, Jesus stopped. He recognized the moment—the opportunity—and acted. His reasoning? “Night is coming, when no one can work.”

Jesus lived with an acute awareness that His time on earth was limited. He had a mission to accomplish, works to complete, and a finite window to do them. Every encounter mattered. Every opportunity counted. He couldn’t afford to waste daylight on trivial pursuits or postpone what the Father called Him to do. The cross was coming. Night was approaching. And when it came, His earthly ministry would end.

What’s striking is that Jesus includes His disciples in this urgency: “we must do the works.” This isn’t just about His mission—it’s about ours. We, too, have limited daylight. We, too, face a coming night when our opportunities to work will cease. For some, that night comes with death. For others, it comes when doors close, when seasons shift, when people move away, when circumstances change. But it always comes.

The question is: what are we doing while it’s still day?

Think about the specific “works” God has assigned you. Perhaps it’s sharing the gospel with a coworker who’s been asking questions. That person may transfer to another department, move to another city, or simply close their heart to spiritual things. While it’s day—while the opportunity exists—you must act.

Maybe it’s reconciling with an estranged family member. Right now there’s still time, still possibility. But relationships don’t wait forever. Pride calcifies. Distance hardens. Death comes. While it’s day, you must pursue peace.

Perhaps it’s investing in your children while they’re still under your roof. These years feel endless when you’re in them, but they’re not. Soon they’ll be grown and gone. While it’s day—while they’re still listening, still watching, still moldable—you must disciple them intentionally.

Or maybe it's a calling you've felt for years but keep postponing. You'll start that ministry "someday." You'll take that mission trip "eventually." You'll use your gifts for the kingdom "when things settle down." But things never settle down, and night keeps approaching. While it's day, you must obey.

Jesus didn't wait for perfect conditions. He healed on the Sabbath, taught when exhausted, fed crowds when He needed solitude. He understood that mission trumps convenience, that obedience can't wait for ideal circumstances. When the Father presented work to do, Jesus did it—immediately, fully, completely.

We, on the other hand, are masters at delay. We see the need but wait. We feel the prompting but hesitate. We recognize the opportunity but calculate the cost. And while we deliberate, daylight fades. The man who needed healing might have been passed by a thousand times by people who had "more important" things to do. But Jesus stopped. Because it was day, and work remained.

What work has God placed before you today? What opportunities are within your reach right now that may not be there tomorrow? What is He calling you to do while it's still day?

Don't wait. Don't assume tomorrow will come. Don't presume the opportunity will remain. Night is coming—for all of us. But right now, it's day. And there's work to do.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, forgive me for living as though I have unlimited time to accomplish Your purposes. You lived with urgency, recognizing that Your days were numbered and Your mission was clear. Give me that same sense of purpose and holy urgency. Open my eyes to see the works You've prepared for me to do today, not someday. Break through my procrastination, my fear, and my excuses. Help me recognize divine appointments when they appear and give me courage to act immediately. Don't let me waste the daylight hours You've given me on trivial pursuits while kingdom work goes undone. Show me what's truly important—the conversations I need to have, the obedience I need to offer, the people I need to serve, the witness I need to bear. Night is coming for me, too. Let me work faithfully, urgently, and completely while it's still day. In Your name, Amen.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Matthew 6:33

Jesus drops this verse into the middle of a conversation about anxiety. His disciples are worried about food, clothing, and survival—the basic necessities that consume so much of our mental energy. And rather than dismissing their concerns, Jesus reorders their priorities with one powerful word: “first.”

“Seek first his kingdom.” Not seek only. Not seek exclusively. But seek first. The order matters. What we put first determines everything else. It shapes our decisions, directs our energy, and defines our lives. And Jesus is crystal clear: God’s kingdom must occupy the primary position.

But what does it mean to seek God’s kingdom first? It means His agenda takes priority over ours. His purposes supersede our plans. His will trumps our preferences. Before we ask “What do I want?” we ask “What does God want?” Before we pursue our dreams, we align ourselves with His mission. Before we build our kingdoms, we invest in His.

This isn’t theoretical theology—it’s intensely practical. Seeking God’s kingdom first means your morning begins with Him, not your phone. It means your budget reflects kingdom priorities, not just personal desires. It means career decisions are filtered through “How can I best advance God’s purposes?” not just “How can I maximize my income?” It means your time, your talents, and your treasures are viewed as resources for kingdom investment, not personal consumption.

“And his righteousness”—Jesus adds this crucial phrase. Seeking God’s kingdom isn’t just about external activity; it’s about internal transformation. Righteousness means living in alignment with God’s character, pursuing holiness, allowing Him to shape you into Christ’s image. You can’t effectively advance God’s kingdom while living in contradiction to His character.

Then comes the promise: “and all these things will be given to you as well.” Jesus isn’t promising wealth or comfort, but sufficiency. When you prioritize God’s kingdom, He ensures your needs are met. Not your wants—your needs. Food, clothing, shelter, provision.

God takes responsibility for those who make His kingdom their first concern.

The tragedy is how often we reverse this order. We seek provision first, telling ourselves we'll seek God's kingdom once we're secure. We pursue comfort first, planning to pursue righteousness once life settles down. We build our dreams first, intending to serve God's purposes after we've achieved our goals. But "first" never comes because we've already spent our best on secondary things.

This verse confronts our misplaced priorities with uncomfortable clarity. What actually comes first in your life? Where do your best hours go? What gets your freshest energy? What receives your most careful planning? Your calendar and your bank statement don't lie—they reveal what you truly seek first.

Jesus offers a radically different way: put God's kingdom first, and watch Him handle the rest. It's not irresponsible—it's faith. It's not reckless—it's wisdom. It's not naive—it's the way Jesus Himself lived and the way He calls us to live.

The question isn't whether you'll seek something first. You will. Everyone does. The question is what—or rather, Who—will occupy that primary place in your life.

PRAYER:

Father, I confess that too often I seek everything else first and relegate You to whatever time and energy remain. I pursue security, comfort, success, and approval before I pursue Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Forgive me for my misplaced priorities. Reorder my life around what matters most to You. Teach me what it means practically to seek Your kingdom first—in how I spend my time, invest my money, make my decisions, and order my days. Give me faith to trust that when I put You first, You'll provide what I need. Break my addiction to control and self-sufficiency. Help me live as someone who truly believes Your kingdom is worth everything. I want to look back on my life and see that You were always first—not in my words, but in my actual choices and priorities. Transform me into someone who seeks Your kingdom and righteousness above all else. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The One Thing Needed

“Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’” - Luke 10:41-42

Picture the scene: Jesus, the honored guest, sits in Martha’s home. Martha bustles about the kitchen, stressed and distracted by preparations. Meanwhile, her sister Mary sits at Jesus’ feet, absorbed in His teaching. Martha’s resentment builds until she finally snaps: “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Jesus’ response is gentle but piercing: “Martha, Martha...” The repetition of her name carries both affection and correction. He’s not angry with her busyness—He’s concerned about what’s driving it. “You are worried and upset about many things.” Many things. That’s the problem. Her attention is fractured, her energy scattered, her focus divided among a dozen concerns.

Martha isn’t doing anything wrong, *per se*. Someone has to prepare the meal. Hospitality matters. Service is important. But she’s so consumed with the secondary things that she’s missing the primary thing—Jesus Himself, sitting in her living room, teaching truths that could transform her life.

“But few things are needed—or indeed only one.” Jesus cuts through the clutter of Martha’s anxious activity with startling clarity. She thinks many things are necessary. He says only one thing is. Mary has chosen it. She’s positioned herself at Jesus’ feet, prioritizing His presence and His words over productivity and performance.

“Mary has chosen what is better”—not what’s easier, not what’s more comfortable, but what’s better. Sitting at Jesus’ feet when there’s work to be done requires intentionality. It means saying no to the urgent in order to say yes to the important. It means resisting the pull of productivity to embrace the priority of presence.

We are all Martha. We live worried and upset about many things. Our minds race with to-do lists. Our calendars overflow with commitments. We’re busy, productive, stressed, and stretched thin. And like Martha, we can resent those who aren’t as busy as we are, who somehow find time to sit still, to be present, to prioritize what we’ve relegated to “someday.”

But Jesus calls us to something different. He invites us to choose the one thing needed—Himself. Not as an addition to our alreadypacked lives, but as the center around which everything else revolves. When we get this priority right, everything else finds its proper place.

The tragedy is how often we're so busy serving Jesus that we have no time to sit with Jesus. We work for Him, talk about Him, organize events in His name—all while rarely positioning ourselves at His feet to simply listen, worship, and be present. We've confused activity with intimacy, productivity with devotion.

"And it will not be taken away from her"—this is the promise. What Mary gained that day wasn't temporary. The meal Martha prepared was consumed and forgotten. But the words Mary heard, the presence she experienced, the choice she made to prioritize Jesus—that remained. That transformed her. That had eternal value.

What are you choosing today? The many things or the one thing? The urgent or the important? The busy work of religion or the beautiful simplicity of sitting at His feet?

Jesus is in your house. Will you pause long enough to hear Him?

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, forgive me for being a Martha when You're calling me to be a Mary. I'm so often worried and upset about many things—distracted, busy, anxious, stretched thin. I confuse activity with devotion and mistake busyness for faithfulness. I'm so focused on serving You that I forget to sit with You. Teach me to recognize the one thing that's truly needed—Your presence, Your words, Your fellowship. Help me choose what's better, even when the urgent screams for my attention. Give me courage to say no to good things so I can say yes to the best thing. Slow me down. Quiet my anxious heart. Draw me to Your feet. Let me learn from Mary's example—to prioritize presence over productivity, intimacy over activity, listening over doing. I don't want to reach the end of my life having been busy for You but distant from You. Teach me to choose the one thing that will never be taken away—knowing You, loving You, sitting at Your feet. In Your name, Amen.

WAKE UP!

“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” - Romans 13:11

Paul uses the jarring image of someone shaking a sleeping person awake. “Wake up!” he essentially shouts. “Do you realize what time it is?” The Roman believers had grown spiritually drowsy, lulled into complacency by the routines of daily life. They’d become comfortable, settled, spiritually sleepy. Paul’s words are an alarm clock set to maximum volume.

“Understanding the present time”—this phrase is crucial. Many people sleepwalk through life, oblivious to the significance of the moment they’re in. They don’t recognize the urgency, don’t grasp the stakes, don’t understand that every day brings them closer to eternity. They live as though they have infinite time, as though tomorrow is guaranteed, as though there’s no deadline approaching.

Paul shatters that illusion: “The hour has already come for you to wake up.” Not the hour is coming. Not the hour might come. The hour has already come. It’s here. Now. This is the moment for action, for alertness, for urgent faithfulness. The time for spiritual slumber is over.

“Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” Every day that passes brings us one day closer to seeing Christ face to face. Whether through His return or our death, the finish line approaches. If salvation seemed distant when you first believed, it’s much closer now. Years have passed. Time has been spent. The clock has moved forward, and it doesn’t move backward.

Think about it practically. If you became a Christian twenty years ago, you’re twenty years closer to standing before Jesus than you were then. If you came to faith five years ago, you’ve used up five years of the time allotted to you for kingdom work. Every sunrise moves you closer to your final sunrise. Every breath brings you nearer to your last breath.

This reality should create holy urgency in our souls. Spiritual slumber is a luxury we can’t afford. There’s too much at stake, too little time, too much work to be done. People around us are heading toward eternity without Christ. Our own character still needs

transformation. Our callings remain unfulfilled. Our churches need revival. Our world needs the gospel.

Yet how many of us are sleepwalking through our Christian lives? We go through the motions—attend services, say prayers, read devotionals—but we're not truly awake. We're not alert to opportunities. We're not sensing the urgency. We're not living like people who understand that time is running out.

Paul's command isn't to panic but to wake up. To become alert, aware, intentional. To shake off the drowsiness of complacency and the fog of distraction. To live with eyes wide open to what God is doing and what He's calling us to do.

What would it look like for you to truly wake up spiritually? To stop hitting the snooze button on God's promptings? To recognize that this day—this very hour—is pregnant with eternal significance? To live like someone who believes salvation is nearer now than when you first believed?

The alarm is sounding. The hour has come. It's time to wake up.

PRAYER:

Lord, I confess I've been spiritually asleep when You're calling me to be awake. I've grown comfortable, complacent, drowsy in my faith. I've treated my Christian life like something routine rather than urgent, casual rather than crucial. Forgive me for sleepwalking through days that matter eternally. Wake me up! Open my eyes to the present time, to the urgency of this moment, to the reality that my salvation—and my opportunity to serve You—is nearer now than when I first believed. Shake me from my slumber. Make me alert to the opportunities around me, sensitive to Your Spirit's promptings, responsive to Your calls to action. Don't let me waste another day in spiritual drowsiness while the world needs the gospel, people need love, and You're calling me to faithful service. Time is shorter than I think. Help me live like I believe it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND

*“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”
- Isaiah 55:6*

Isaiah’s words carry an unsettling implication: there’s a window of opportunity for seeking God, and that window can close. “While he may be found” suggests there’s a time when He may not be found—or at least, when seeking becomes much harder. “While he is near” implies there are seasons when He feels distant, when access seems blocked, when the door that was open has shut.

This isn’t because God changes or moves away. God is omnipresent; He’s always everywhere. But there are seasons when He draws near in invitation, when hearts are soft, when conviction is strong, when the Spirit is working with particular intensity. These are moments of divine opportunity—windows when seeking is easier, when calling out to Him meets with ready response.

The tragedy is that many people assume these windows stay open forever. They feel the tug of the Spirit and think, “I’ll respond later.” They sense God’s nearness and assume He’ll be equally near next month, next year, next decade. They hear His invitation and postpone their answer, confident the offer will remain indefinitely.

But Scripture consistently warns against this presumption. Hearts that are soft today can harden tomorrow. Consciences that are sensitive now can become seared later. The Spirit who convicts today may eventually stop striving with those who persistently resist. Pharaoh hardened his heart until God hardened it for him. Israel tested God in the wilderness until He swore they would never enter His rest.

“Seek the LORD while He may be found”—the urgency is now. This present moment. Not someday when life settles down, not later when seeking God feels more convenient. Today—while the invitation is clear and the door is open.

Consider the practical implications. That conviction about a sin you need to confess? Don’t wait—deal with it now while your conscience is tender. That sense that God is calling you to a specific obedience? Respond today while the call is clear. That spiritual hunger you’re experiencing? Feed it now while your heart is open.

Because here's the sobering truth: repeated resistance to God's nearness can result in His seeming distance. Those who continually ignore God's voice may eventually find it harder to hear. Hearts that repeatedly reject His invitation can grow calloused. The opportunity you have today to seek and find God may not come again with the same clarity tomorrow.

This isn't meant to create paranoia but urgency. God is merciful, patient, and long-suffering. But He's also sovereign, and He doesn't force Himself on anyone. If you persistently push Him away, He may eventually honor that choice by withdrawing the intensity of His pursuit.

The beautiful promise embedded in Isaiah's warning is this: right now, God may be found. Right now, He is near. However far you've wandered or however long you've resisted—if you're reading these words and feeling even the faintest pull toward Him, that's evidence He's still near, still seeking, still inviting.

Don't wait. Don't test the limits of His patience. Don't assume tomorrow will offer the same opportunity as today. Seek Him while He may be found. Call on Him while He is near. Because the day may come when seeking becomes harder, when nearness gives way to distance, when the window quietly closes.

PRAYER:

Lord, I hear Your invitation, and I don't want to presume on Your patience or take Your nearness for granted. Forgive me for the times I've sensed Your Spirit drawing me and I've said, "Not now," "Later," or "Someday." I've treated Your pursuit as something I could postpone indefinitely. But Your Word warns me there are seasons of opportunity—windows that can close—times when seeking You is easier than others. I don't want to miss this moment. Right now, while You may be found, I seek You. Right now, while You are near, I call on You. Soften my heart. Open my ears. Draw me close. Don't let me harden through resistance or grow calloused through disobedience. Whatever You're convicting me of, I want to respond now—not tomorrow. Whatever You're calling me to, I want to obey today—not someday. Thank You that even now, You are near. Thank You that I can still seek and find You. Don't let me waste this opportunity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NOW IS THE TIME

“For he says, ‘In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.’ I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” - 2 Corinthians 6:2

Paul quotes from Isaiah and then delivers one of Scripture’s most urgent declarations: “Now is the time... now is the day.” Not tomorrow. Not next week. Not when circumstances improve or when you feel more ready. Now. This present moment. Today.

God has appointed specific seasons of favor—times when His grace flows with particular abundance, when hearts are uniquely receptive, when salvation is offered with clarity. Paul declares that the Corinthians are living in such a moment. The day of salvation isn’t some distant future event—it’s here, it’s now, it’s today. But notice the implication: if now is the day of salvation, then it’s possible to miss the day. Days end. Seasons change. Opportunities close. The time of favor doesn’t last forever—not because God’s mercy expires, but because human hearts can harden, circumstances can shift, and opportunities can pass.

This urgency applies to salvation itself. If you’re reading this and haven’t surrendered your life to Christ, now is your moment. Not when you’ve cleaned up your act. Not when you understand everything. Not when life feels less chaotic. The offer of salvation is before you right now. God is extending His favor to you this very moment. To say “later” is to presume you’ll have a later—a presumption Scripture never supports.

But Paul’s urgency isn’t only for the unsaved. He’s writing to believers in Corinth, urging them not to “receive God’s grace in vain.” Christians, too, can miss their day of opportunity. We can waste seasons when God is particularly near, when His Spirit is moving powerfully, when doors are open for ministry and growth.

Perhaps God is opening a door for reconciliation in a broken relationship. Now is the time—before pride hardens, before distance calcifies, before death makes reconciliation impossible. Perhaps God is calling you to a specific act of obedience. Now is the day—before conviction fades, before circumstances change, before the window closes. Perhaps God is presenting an opportunity to share the gospel with someone. Now is the moment—before they move away, before their heart closes, before the opportunity vanishes.

We're experts at postponing what God says to do now. We wait for perfect conditions, complete clarity, or convenient timing. But God doesn't promise tomorrow. He offers today. The grace available to you in this present moment may not be available with the same intensity later. The person open to spiritual conversation today may be closed tomorrow. The conviction you feel right now may dim if you ignore it.

"Now is the time of God's favor"—what a gift! God is favorably disposed toward you right now. He's listening. He's helping. He's offering salvation, restoration, direction, power. But favor has its seasons, and this season is now.

"Now is the day of salvation"—not just initial salvation, but ongoing deliverance from sin, transformation into Christ's likeness, rescue from wasted living. Whatever God is saving you from or saving you for, the day to embrace it is today.

Don't let this day pass without responding to what God is saying. Don't assume tomorrow will offer the same opportunity. Don't test the limits of divine patience.

Now is the time. Now is the day. What will you do with it?

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You that now is the time of Your favor, that today is the day of salvation. Forgive me for treating Your gracious invitations as things I can respond to "eventually" or "someday." I've presumed on tomorrow and taken for granted the opportunities of today. I hear Your voice calling me to immediate response, and I don't want to delay any longer. Whatever You're asking me to do, I want to do it now—not when it's convenient, not when I feel ready, but today while Your favor rests on me, while Your Spirit is speaking clearly, while the door is open. If there's sin I need to confess, I confess it now. If there's obedience You're requiring, I commit to it now. If there's someone I need to forgive or reconcile with, I'll reach out now. If there's a calling I need to embrace, I accept it now. Don't let me waste this day of opportunity. Don't let me receive Your grace in vain. Help me live with holy urgency, recognizing that now is always the time to respond to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

IN SEASON AND OUT

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”
- 2 Timothy 4:2

Paul writes to his young protégé Timothy with fatherly urgency. His instructions are direct, almost staccato: “Preach the word.” No qualifications. No exceptions. No excuses. This is the nonnegotiable calling for everyone who follows Christ—not necessarily from a pulpit, but in every sphere of influence God has given us.

But then Paul adds a phrase that should challenge our convenienceoriented approach to ministry: “be prepared in season and out of season.” In other words, when it’s convenient and when it’s not. When you feel like it and when you don’t. When people are receptive and when they’re hostile. When circumstances are favorable and when they’re difficult.

“In season” ministry is easy. That’s when your audience is engaged, your words are well-received, and your efforts produce visible fruit. It’s when the person you’re witnessing to asks spiritual questions. It’s when your children are actually listening to your instruction. It’s when your encouragement lands well and makes a difference. In-season ministry requires little courage because the conditions are right.

But “out of season” ministry? That’s another story. That’s sharing truth when people don’t want to hear it. That’s correcting sin when it makes you unpopular. That’s encouraging someone who doesn’t seem to appreciate it. That’s continuing to disciple your teenagers even when they roll their eyes. That’s preaching the gospel to the same coworker who’s rejected it before. That’s remaining faithful when you see no fruit, no response, no evidence that your words matter.

Most of us are fair-weather ministers. We share our faith when the opportunity is obvious and comfortable. We offer spiritual input when people ask for it. We serve when it’s convenient and appreciated. But Paul calls us to something more demanding: constant readiness, regardless of circumstances.

“Be prepared”—this suggests intentionality. You don’t stumble into out-of-season faithfulness. It requires preparation of heart, mind, and spirit. It means staying in God’s Word so you have something

to say. It means maintaining your own walk with Christ so you're drawing from a full well. It means developing sensitivity to the Spirit's promptings even when timing seems off.

Notice the balance Paul prescribes: "correct, rebuke and encourage." Not just one. All three. Some people only know how to correct and rebuke—they're spiritual police officers, always pointing out what's wrong. Others only encourage—they're afraid to speak hard truth. But mature ministry includes all three, delivered "with great patience and careful instruction."

This is urgent because Paul goes on to warn that "the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine." That time has come. We live in an age that rejects absolute truth, resents moral authority, and prefers comfortable lies to uncomfortable reality. Which means out-of-season ministry is becoming the norm. The culture isn't asking for what we have to offer. People aren't naturally receptive. The conditions aren't favorable.

But that doesn't change the command: preach the word. Be prepared. Stay faithful. Whether in season or out of season, the message doesn't change, and neither does our responsibility to share it.

The question isn't whether the season is right. The question is whether you're ready.

PRAYER:

Lord, I confess I've been a fair-weather minister—faithful when it's easy, silent when it's costly. I share truth when people want to hear it but stay quiet when it might create tension. I serve when it's convenient but withdraw when it requires sacrifice. Forgive my selective obedience. Make me someone who's prepared in season and out of season—ready to speak Your truth whether people receive it or reject it, whether circumstances are favorable or difficult. Give me courage to correct when correction is needed, boldness to rebuke when sin must be confronted, and compassion to encourage those who are weary. Help me balance truth with patience, conviction with gentleness. Keep me faithful even when I see no fruit, even when my words seem wasted, even when the cultural climate is hostile. I don't want to be silent when You're calling me to speak. Prepare my heart, fill my mind with Your Word, and make me ready—always ready—to preach the gospel in whatever season I find myself. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TODAY, IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE

“For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” - Psalm 95:7-8

The psalmist begins with beautiful imagery: we are God’s flock, under His care, in His pasture. It’s a picture of intimacy, provision, and belonging. God is our shepherd, and we are His sheep. But then comes an urgent plea that shatters any complacency: “Today, if only you would hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” That word “today” pulses with urgency. Not tomorrow. Not eventually. Not when you feel more spiritual or when life settles down. Today. This very moment. Right now. God is speaking, and the critical question is whether you’re listening—and more importantly, whether you’re responding.

“If only you would hear his voice”—there’s a note of divine longing in these words. God desires to communicate with His people. He’s not distant or silent. He speaks through His Word, through His Spirit, through circumstances, through other believers. The problem isn’t that God isn’t speaking; it’s that we’re not hearing. Or worse, we’re hearing but not heeding.

The warning that follows is sobering: “Do not harden your hearts.” The psalmist goes on to reference Israel’s rebellion in the wilderness, when an entire generation heard God’s voice and hardened their hearts against it. They tested Him, doubted Him, and refused to trust His promises. The consequence? They died in the wilderness, never entering the rest God had prepared for them.

Heart-hardening doesn’t happen all at once. It’s a gradual process. Every time you hear God’s voice and choose to ignore it, your heart becomes a little harder. Every conviction you dismiss, every prompting you resist, every truth you rationalize away—each one calcifies your conscience just a bit more. Today’s tender heart can become tomorrow’s hardened heart through repeated resistance.

This is why the timing matters so much. Today—while your heart is still soft, while conviction is still fresh, while the Spirit is still speaking clearly—respond. Don’t wait. Don’t test the limits of God’s patience. Don’t assume you’ll have the same sensitivity tomorrow that you have today.

What is God saying to you right now? Is He calling you to repent of a specific sin? Don't rationalize it away. Is He prompting you to reconcile with someone? Don't delay. Is He asking you to step out in faith toward something that frightens you? Don't resist. Is He convicting you about how you're spending your time, your money, your energy? Don't ignore it.

The tragedy of the wilderness generation wasn't that they never heard God. They heard Him constantly—through Moses, through miracles, through His very presence among them. Their tragedy was that they heard and hardened. They knew His will and refused it. They had opportunity after opportunity to trust and obey, and they squandered them all.

You have today. You're hearing His voice right now, even through these words. Your heart is either softening or hardening in response. There's no neutral ground. Every moment of hearing God's voice is a moment of decision.

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. Tomorrow may be too late.

PRAYER:

Lord, I hear Your voice speaking to me today—through Your Word, through Your Spirit, through the conviction I feel right now. Forgive me for the times I've heard and hardened my heart, for the moments when I've known what You wanted me to do and refused to do it. I don't want to follow the example of Israel in the wilderness, hearing You constantly but never truly obeying. Keep my heart soft and responsive. Don't let repeated resistance turn into permanent hardness. Whatever You're saying to me today—whether it's about sin to confess, obedience to embrace, truth to believe, or action to take—I want to respond now, not later. Break through my excuses, my fears, and my rationalizations. Help me trust You enough to obey immediately, not just eventually. Thank You that You still speak, that You still pursue, that You still care for me as Your sheep. Give me ears to hear and a heart that responds. Today, while I can still hear clearly, I choose obedience over resistance, trust over doubt, and a soft heart over a hard one. In Jesus' name, Amen

INSPIRING EVANGELISM QUOTES

- “I’m not afraid of failure; I’m afraid of succeeding at things that don’t matter.” - William Carey
- “Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell!” - C.T. Studd
- “If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?” - David Livingstone
- “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” - Jim Elliot
- “The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.” - Carl F.H. Henry
- “The church that does not evangelize will fossilize.” - Oswald J. Smith
- “If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is in the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world.” - Charles Spurgeon
- “You want beautiful feet? Skip the pedicure! Share the gospel!” - Living Waters
- “If we are going to wait until every possible hindrance has been removed before we do a work for the Lord, we will never attempt to do anything.” - T.J. Bach, 1881-1963, Missionary to Venezuela
- “I am ready to burn out for God. I am ready to endure any hardship, if by any means I might save some. The longing of my heart is to make known my glorious Redeemer to those who have never heard.” - William Burns
- “You have one business on earth: to save souls.” - John Wesley
- “We have all eternity to tell of the victories won for Christ, but we have only a few hours before sunset to win them.” - Amy Carmichael, 1867-1951, Missionary to India
- “If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn’t it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind? How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death.” - Dave Davidson
- “People who don’t believe in missions have not read the New Testament. Right from the beginning Jesus said the field is the world. The early church took Him at His word and went East, West, North, and South.” - J. Howard Edington

INSPIRING EVANGELISM QUOTES

- “It is not in our choice to spread the gospel or not. It is our death if we do not.” - Peter Taylor Forsyth
- “This generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of souls on the earth!” - Keith Green
- “Is not the commission of our Lord still binding upon us? Can we not do more than now we are doing?” - William Carey, 1761-1834, Missionary to India
- “People are still waiting at the end of our obedience.” - David Joannes
- “The Great Commission will not be fulfilled with our spare time or spare money.” - David Kim
- “Jesus will judge us not only for what we did, but also for what we could have done and didn’t.” - George Otis
- “Satan is delighted for us to be satisfied with having given of our time, contributed significant expense and helping a lot of people without introducing them to the One who can give eternal hope.” - Jerry Rankin
- “If the Great Commission is true, our plans are not too big; they are too small.” - Pat Morley
- “One-third of the planet’s population, over two billion people, has never heard the gospel. And of that number, over 50,000 die daily, separated from God forever.” - David Sills, *The Missionary Call*
- “We do not truly understand the gospel if we spend all of our time preaching it to Christians. The gospel is a missionary gospel. It is a communication of Good News to people and in places where the name of Christ is unknown.” - David Sitton, President of To Every Tribe
- “No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once.” - Oswald J. Smith
- “The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” - J. Hudson Taylor, 1832-1905, Missionary to China
- “Our God of Grace often gives us a second chance, but there is no second chance to harvest a ripe crop.” - Kurt von Schleicher
- “It’s not that God has a mission for His Church in the world, but that God has a Church for His Mission in the world.” - Chris Wright



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