

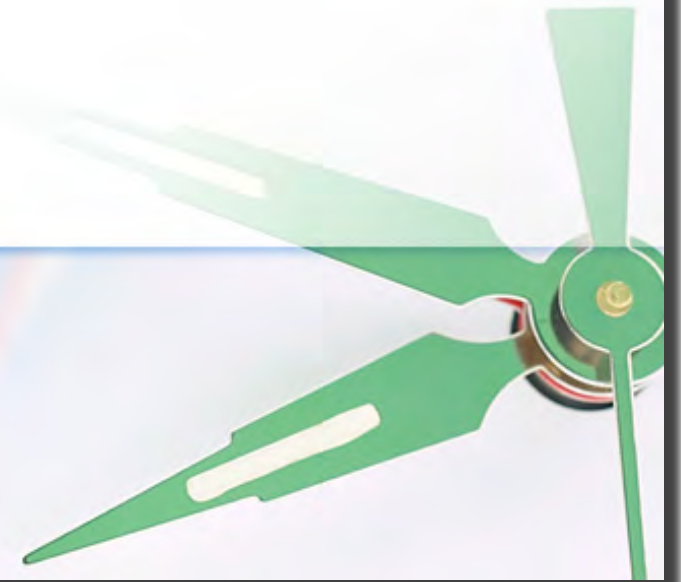


time management

Time Management, God's Way

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Responding to Circumstances

- How often do we find ourselves complaining about our circumstances?
 - Agh, it's Monday again!
 - It's raining. There goes our picnic!
 - Oh no, look who's at the door. I don't want to see her!
 - When is this class going to be over?
 - Bleah! Not spinach again!
 - This car won't start! Can't they make anything right these days?

Responding to Circumstances

- This is not a good testimony to the truth of Christianity, nor an indication of spiritual maturity on our part.
- Jesus doesn't want us to go thru life complaining, discouraging ourselves and others:
 - John 10:10 (NIV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
 - Jesus wants us to have life to the full.

Responding to Circumstances

- I've been working on this problem for some years now.
- I haven't had as much success as I would like...
- ... but I can testify that the labor involved in achieving some progress has been well worth it.

Mismanaging our Time

- The Bible urges us to use our time well:
 - Jesus' example: John 9:4 (NIV) As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.
 - Paul's admonition: 1Cor 15:58 (NIV)
Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

How Often We Waste Time!

- Doing nothing:
 - Killing time, watching TV, waiting...
- Relaxing
 - Not wrong as such, but our society has made a fetish of "you deserve a break today!"
- Wishing it were some other time
 - And so not using the time we have
 - Wanting something to be over, or to come quickly.
 - Rushing thru something, so you can do what you want.

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**God wants us to let him be
Lord of our time**

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God as Lord of our Time

- He already is!
 - Isaiah 46:9 (NIV) Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.
 - Parable of Farmer in Airplane

God as Lord of our Time

- We need to acknowledge His control:
 - Psalm 31:14 (NIV) But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." 15 My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.
- We need to have time for others, not letting our agenda overrule God's providential dealings.

God as Lord of our Time

- Jesus' example in letting the Father's agenda overrule His own:
 - Getting away vs feeding the 5000
 - Interruption on way to heal Jairus' daughter
 - The plea of the Syro-Phoenician woman
- The example of the Good Samaritan (vs the priest and Levite)

God as Lord of our Time

- This doesn't mean we let others waste our time & keep us from God's priorities.
 - Example of Apostles in Acts 6
 - Jesus' instructions to leave unrepentant cities.
 - The Gospel to be preached to the whole world

We need to rejoice in God's timing

- 1Chronicles 16:31 (NIV) Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"
- Psalm 118:24 (NIV) This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- Ecclesiastes 11:8 (NIV) However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything to come is meaningless.

We need to rejoice in God's timing

- Isaiah 25:9 (NIV) In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."
- Luke 10:21 (NIV) At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

We need to rejoice in God's timing

- 1Peter 1:6 (NIV) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.
- Philippians 4:4 (NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

We Need to Labor Faithfully

- ... no matter what the circumstances God puts us in.
 - 1Cor 15:58 (NIV) Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
 - Psalm 90:12 (NIV) Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

To Do This, We Need to Trust God

- ... that He is bringing into our lives what He knows we need.
 - Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
 - Psalm 62:8 (NIV) Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

We Need to Trust Him for All Our Needs

- Matt 6:31 (NIV) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Trusting Him Means...

- ... viewing Him as the good God He is.
 - Contrast the attitude of the servant who wasted his talent: Matthew 25:24 (NIV) "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'
 - Aren't we like this when we have these bad attitudes towards the times & circumstances God has allotted to us?

Conclusions

- Are we living like we believe a good & gracious God is in control of our lives?
- Are we trusting Him in all our circumstances?
- Are we living as though we only go thru life once and the Lord wants us to use it to the full for Him?

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Don't Waste the Time God Has Entrusted You With!

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