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Time is on Our Side.

Dear Friend,

Have you ever heard the expression “*time is on our side?*” I seem to recall an old secular song with similar lyrics. How about “*time heals everything*” or “*let your bygones be bygones?*” The truth is people have so many perspectives on the passage of time that the world doesn’t know what to believe.

The Bible gives us certain truths about the aspects of time which can add quality to our existence. Number one – God created time. Time is measured in celestial seasons and this truth is established in **(Genesis 1:14-15) *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.*** So we see from these verses that God created time.

Number two - God will one day cease or end time **(Revelations 22:5) *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.***

From these two perspectives we see that God not only started time but one day will lead us into a timeless eternity, a society in which time will have no relevance. Imagine this, no more rushing to make an appointment or a church service. No need for scheduling a day, week, month or year. Everything will function in an order in which time is not the essence.

Why then did God design a dispensation, a small sliver of man’s existence for us to live and be forced to function within this thing we know as time? In the beginning God created this to serve man in times and seasons but now it serves primarily to remind us that we have a limited period in which to accomplish His will in the earth. Let’s look at a key scripture for a few moments concerning time. ***So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)***

If we take this verse from the Old Testament literally we must remember that it applied to a group of Hebrews who were wondering aimlessly through the wilderness and who accomplished little by the end of their days.

What about us as present day believers? We who believe that we have an eternal destiny also believe that we presently possess directives to live out our lives in obedience to our King.

“***Number our days,***” why would we do this Friend? I believe it’s so we can make every moment count to its maximum efficiency for the kingdom of God. Without this kind of mindset we fall

victim to believing that we have an unlimited amount of time to accomplish whatever God has asked us to do for him in this life.

This mindset is so easily adopted just by reason of the fact that our inner man is eternal and he sees no end in sight. Believe me the sense of having all of eternity in front of us is not a bad thing, it is a present quality of the re-born human spirit that knows it will live forever. There is a downside though, that is if we let the mind of the flesh use this knowledge against us to cause us to think that “*we have all the time in the world,*” to accomplish our life’s call from God. This can occur when procrastination subtly edges up on this eternal truth and uses it to its fleshly advantage. The dichotomy here is that our spirit is already timeless but our bodies are not. The physical part of us will one day be parked in death (so to speak) and that will be the end of our earthly ministry.

So as not to put God in a box but to take His word literally let’s examine the quotation “*to number our days.*” Okay, let’s say when you are born you live to be one hundred years old, typically people don’t but some do. You will have 36,500 days to accomplish your intended purpose on this earth. It may sound like a lot of days but they are ticking by quickly. By the time you reach 50 you only have 18,250 days left. By the time you are 70 less than 11,000 days are left.

Now let’s look at some other aspects of our lives. From the age of zero to 20 which are the formidable years of infancy, adolescence, teenage and young adulthood. These are years of simply trying to figure out what we want to accomplish in life not usually full speed towards the intended goal.

Then, what about the final years between 80 and 100? These years can be some of our most productive in the spirit but at this age even a healthy body is not running at the speed it once was in earlier years. ***For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward [man] is renewed day by day. (II Corinthians 4:16)***

So if we deduct the first twenty and the last twenty years from the maximum potential our bodies can produce that would make our starting total of 36,500 a mere 21,900 days to accomplish our intended purpose in the earth.

Again let me say that the last twenty years can be our most productive in the spirit but this example helps us to see a clear picture of our mortality, yet it does not take into consideration at what age a person accepts Christ and becomes willing and able to accomplish something for His kingdom.

I think you get the picture. This is not meant to be a morbid example but rather an observation of the instruction of the word of the Lord. The truth is this; part of our present makeup is not eternal and is limited to time. We keep thinking we are going to get it done, the question is when? Thinking about what we are doing today will help us secure his will for our tomorrows. The tremendous bright spot in all of this is that God is not limited by time. ***Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [is] Holy; I dwell in the high and holy [place], with him also [that is] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*** God can take our humble and contrite hearts and multiply our deeds done while in this body.

Some of us may be working our entire lives for one magnificently staged curtain call just before the end of our lives. Imagine massive amounts of people coming into the kingdom as a result of our

stewarding every day for Christ. What if everything culminates and comes to bear on years of relentless prayer and stewarding your call and gift for God?

(James 4:14) says *Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.* The scripture uses the word vapour or mist, it's there only for a second and then it's gone. This may be the New Testament reflection of **(Psalm 90:12)** *So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.* Our intent on how we number our days is of the utmost importance.

The greatest comfort we have in all this Friend is in our prototype which is our Lord himself. Consider that he was a man of nearly 30 years old before he began his public work. In three and half years Jesus accomplished more than any other man has in an entire lifetime. The reason for his success is his complete and total surrender to the Father. He was truly life's living example of someone numbering their days with the intent of applying their heart to wisdom.

In three and a half years Christ fulfilled four thousand years of the Levitical Law, changed the religious order of the day by instituting the order of the born again spirit, also started the eternal church which will total into billions of souls, released the person and power of the Holy Spirit to be carried out in the world and ascended to the Father to act as our Mediator and High Priest forever, all this in roughly 1277 days.

The secret is not how long you have been at it or how much time you have left; the secret is in how much we can surrender to the Father? This is our heart's application to wisdom. How much of me can I surrender to him each day? How much of my ambition can be surrendered into the pure flow of the Father's will for my life? This is only accomplished by the person Holy Spirit. Only the time spent in his presence using his authority will produce the redemption of our time. ***Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16)***

This is our confidence as revivalists around the world, we who desire to be used powerfully by the Father in the last great outpouring of the Spirit, in our time spent in the spiritual presence praying in the mysteries in the Holy Ghost, we can be assured he is prioritizing our prayers so that nothing is lost. We have no time to lose. The Holy Spirit is the personal representative of our living Lord Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit's intent and instruction from the Father to direct you according to Christ's will for your life, especially in the area of time. So to put first things first, how much has your living Lord specifically asked you to pray? I call him the living Lord because He did not just go away and leave no way of communicating with his church what his specific instructions for our present lives are. In fact, he taught that his ability to communicate with us spirit to spirit would only improve once he left. ***Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. (John 16:7)*** He also said he had many things to say to us ***I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (John 16:12-13)***

So, if while he was with his disciples on earth he could be so specific in his instruction that he could tell Peter 1) go to the sea, 2) cast in a hook, 3) take the first fish, 4) remove the coin and pay mine and your taxes, how much more can he speak to us today who have his spirit living on the inside? ***Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up***

the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee. (Matthew 17:27)

If you don't know because you have not asked, no problem, now is a good time to ask. The Holy Spirit knows the will of our Father for our life. He can also calculate how much time it will take to fulfill his will between now and the close of your life. So, there are certain things that are our privilege to ask Him, things like what should be my prayer schedule on a weekly basis? How much time each day? Are there days that are more and some that are less? What time do I start and end each day? Where do I pray meaning at what location and more specifically what room do I pray in at that location? Believe me; the Holy Spirit is very gracious to allow all the time required for all the other necessities of life, even pleasurable events. But good intentions are just that until you narrow these things down and begin to practice them. I have a good friend who prays consistently. His motto is "Don't tell me you are going to pray, tell me how much you are going to pray next Tuesday, what time and where?" See what I mean. Without these guidelines we fall victim to loosing valuable time in good intentions.

What if we do not complete our schedule or fall short of our intended goal, which can happen often? There is no condemnation through a sense of legalism. The Holy Spirit is just thrilled we are serious enough simply to try a schedule but without a goal he has little to work with to help us stay in prayer and good intentions stay only that.

Some may say this puts me in a box and sounds like legalism. I would rather pray throughout the day as the Spirit leads me, funny how the flesh can talk to us when it is asked to die.

Let's consider that you are employed by someone or are an employer of people, doesn't most every job in the world asks of its employee's that they show up for work at a specific time, at a specific location in order to do a specific job? Nobody ever says, "You know I think they are being quite legalistic about this matter, I am going to start showing up when I want to and getting off when I want to." Needless to say your days as an employee are numbered. It's funny how our perspectives change when it comes to spiritual things, things that have a much weightier and eternal significance than a mere paycheck. Thank God for a living Lord who is very gracious in helping each of us schedule our time with him. Thank God for what I like to call maintenance prayer. That is the prayer that we can pray all through the day as we go on our way. This can best be done by politely praying in tongues under our breath and often this type of running prayer can sustain us when we are being challenged with our time. Believe me the enemy does challenge us all in this matter. Still nothing can replace or equal the quality time that we separate ourselves to in that private place with our Lord. I suppose that if Jesus found these places of solitude necessary in his earthly ministry how much more do we need them?

Keep this truth in mind Friend thy and it will help you in your intended goal. The Holy Spirit is our Helper. Meaning he has come not to abolish our present schedules but rather to help us reorganize or rearrange our life so that God's plan is carried out in the midst of it, which means he works with the present schedule we give him. This may mean a number of things to you as an individual. For example your Monday's may warrant little more than maintenance prayer due to your schedule. But on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's there may be time where you can bulk up your week in prayer. As the weekend comes family projects can often consume our time so this is where early morning meetings with the Lord can add substance to a short day. It is important to understand that everyone's schedule is different and everything can be adjusted. You may be an early riser that worships with a cup of coffee or tea before sunrise and then off to work or maybe

it's late at night after the kids are in bed and the house is settled that you find most easily fits your schedule. The only caution for a late night prayer time is that the daily schedules of some people may leave them exhausted and ready for sleep at the days end so in this case it is better to get one's prayer time in earlier in the day.

The point being that we must allow the teacher to instruct us, *to teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)* We have only one teacher or enforcer of that wisdom, the Holy Spirit. *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (Matt.7:7)*

May you be blessed Friend with glorious times of prayer in the weeks and months ahead.

Love,

Pastor Bronc

P.S. - The word says that we are to exhort one another daily while it is called today and that if two shall agree as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of our Father which is in heaven. If you have a prayer request or a praise report to share please let us hear from you. You can contact us through the web site at www.broncflint.org or email us at fpc@broncflint.org and/or feel free to write us at:

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