

How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?

Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (HCSB)

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!"

Matthew 7:24-27 (HCSB)

Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2 (HCSB)

1. How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

a. What does God want from our lives?

- He wants our all.

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul?

Deuteronomy 10:12 (HCSB)

b. What will it take to give God our all?

- Spiritual discipline.

But have nothing to do with irreverent and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness, for the training of the body has a limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (HCSB)

c. Why should we do it?

- Because of the Love of Christ.

For Christ's love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: If One died for all, then all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (HCSB)

2. God's Prioritized Strategy: God's Word is our GPS

a. Strategy one - daily quiet time

i. Make time to be in God's word

- Read the Bible

ii. Spend time in prayer

- Plan this so it won't get lost in life's busyness

iii. Participate in a Christian community

- Beyond Alpha
- Small Group
- Ministry Opportunity

b. Strategy two - sharing my faith

c. Strategy three - journeying together

d. Strategy four - discovering my unique ministry

Yet Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we all are the work of Your hands. Isaiah 64:8 (HCSB)

i. How has God S.H.A.P.E.D. us?

Your hands shaped me and formed me. Job 10:8a (HCSB)

- We are SHAPED for a purpose.
- We are unique.
- We are wonderfully complex.

ii. The purpose of spiritual gifts

- Not for our benefit, but for others.
- To produce maturity and unity in our church family.
- Our primary ministry commitment should be in the area where we are gifted.
- Our secondary ministry includes serving in any other area of the body when we are needed.

iii. How to discover your spiritual gifts

- Trial and error - experiment with different areas of service
- Analyze - S.H.A.P.E. Profile
- Request input from others - ask others what gifts they see in us

iv. Monitoring our heartbeat

- Our heart determines:
 - Why we say the things we do.
 - Why we feel the way we do.
 - Why we act the way we do.
- Our hearts are the real us!
- God has given each person a unique emotional “heartbeat”!
- We can do God’s will and serve God’s purpose by letting our heartbeats inspire us for ministry!

vii. We develop through experiences

- What *spiritual* experiences?
- What *painful* experiences?
- What *educational* experiences?
- What *work* experiences?
- What *ministry* experiences?

e. Strategy five - membership

- Marry, don't date the church!

For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12 (HCSB)

Notes

