

BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR TIME

Pastor Joel Spiridigliozzi / February 15, 2009

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Psalm 39:5 “You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.”

James 4:13,14 “Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' 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 .”

Biblical Principles to Being Generous With Our Time

1. God doesn't wear Esquire

“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:8b,9).

2. Set your Alarm

“Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to” (1 Timothy 5:13).

“And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle...” (1 Thess. 5:14).

What happens with unseized time?

Unseized time flows towards our **weaknesses**.

Unseized time comes under the influence of **dominant** people.

Unseized time surrenders to the demands of all so-called **emergencies**.

Unseized time gets invested in things that gain **public acclamation**.

3. Prayer Time

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

“The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help” (1 Tim. 5:5).

Determine the difference between the fixed – what one *must* do – and the discretionary – what one would *like* to do.

4. Life-Time Guaranteed

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

5. Priori-TIME

What's in your jar of life?

Jesus knew his priorities... *“Then Levi held a banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?' Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance’” (Luke 5:32).*

6. Learn to press the snooze button!

“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest’” (Mark 6:30,31).

7. Time Flies!

“...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” (Luke 12:39,40).

“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).