



## **MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES**

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**Ephesians 5:15-18 AMP - 15 Therefore see that you walk carefully [living life with honor, purpose, and courage; shunning those who tolerate and enable evil], not as the unwise, but as wise [sensible, intelligent, discerning people], 16 making the very most of your time [on earth, recognizing and taking advantage of each opportunity and using it with wisdom and diligence], because the days are [filled with] evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish and thoughtless, but understand and firmly grasp what the will of the Lord is. 18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him.**

GOD HAS PLACED IN YOU THE DESIRE AND THE ABILITY TO FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE, AND THE FULFILLING OF YOUR PURPOSE IS WHAT PLEASES HIM.

**PHILIPPIANS 2:13 AMP - 13 For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.**

PURPOSE IS THE PORTAL THROUGH WHICH OPPORTUNITY PASSES AS YOU JOURNEY TO FULFILL THE DIVINE DESTINY GOD HAD DESIGNED AND ORDAINED FOR YOU.

**Jeremiah 1:4-5 NLT - 4 The Lord gave me this message: 5 “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”**

**Psalms 139:16 NLT - 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.**

*(Opportunities are woven within the moments of our life)*

Your purpose in life was already designed and designated by God. In order to fulfill your purpose, God establishes opportunities throughout your life that align with your purpose. As we take hold and implement these opportunities, our purpose becomes clearer and manifests.

**OPPORTUNITY** - a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something - in this case, to fulfill our God ordained purpose.

**Ephesians 5:16 AMP - 16 making the very most of your time [on earth, recognizing and taking advantage of each opportunity and using it with wisdom and diligence], because the days are [filled with] evil.**

**1. Recognize the opportunity - SEE THE OPPORTUNITY** - discerning the circumstances presented by God for the fulfillment of His purpose in your life.



**2. Take advantage of the opportunity - SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY** - acting upon circumstances presented by God for the fulfillment of His purpose in your life.

TAKING HOLD OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES CAN PROPEL YOU TO THE PLACE AND POSITION GOD HAS PREPARED FOR YOU.

These opportunities may not always be obvious, but they will be available. This is why we have to trust God's guidance and direction daily through the power of the Holy Spirit to navigate us to opportunities.

**Ex.** Jesus lived His life following the leading of the Holy Spirit, who conveyed the will of the Father.

**Matthew 4:1 AMP** - Then Jesus was led by the [Holy] Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. *We recognize that Jesus was following the leading of the Holy Spirit for an opportunity to be tempted by the devil. The Holy Spirit will always lead us into opportunities that will further our spiritual development.*

**Romans 8:14 AMP** - **14 For all who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit of God are sons (huios - mature ones - The Holy Spirit leads us into opportunities to mature in the things of God.) of God.**

**Hebrews 5:7-9 NLT** - **7 While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. 8 Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. 9 In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.**

The agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (**Matthew 26:36-39, Luke 22:44**) proved He struggled with the difficulty of obedience, yet He obeyed perfectly, knowing what He was about to face.

Obedience to the will of God is required in order to take advantage of the opportunities provided by God. Prayer is a key component when presented with an opportunity that requires our submission to God's will. The Garden of Gethsemane provided the opportunity for Jesus to prove His obedience to the will of the Father.

You will encounter some opportunities in life where it seems that the door is closed or there is an obstacle in your way, hindering progress.

A CLOSED DOOR REGARDING AN OPPORTUNITY CAN SIMPLY MEAN:

1. It's Not Time For It To Open

**Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11 AMP** - There is a season (a time appointed) for everything and a time for every delight and event or purpose under heaven. **11 He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]—yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end.** **Ecclesiastes 8:5-6 NIV** - **5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure.** (*procedure - an established or official way of doing something: a series of steps followed in a regular definite order, a plan or course of action, the method in which something is to be done*) **6 For there is a proper time**



**and procedure for every matter, though a person may be weighed down by misery.**

**Habakkuk 2:2-3 AMP - 2 Then the Lord answered me and said, “Write the vision and engrave it plainly on [clay] tablets so that the one who reads it will run. 3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed [future] time it hurries toward the goal [of fulfillment]; it will not fail. (*God - It's going to happen when I want it to happen*) Even though it delays, wait [patiently] for it, because it will certainly come; it will not delay.**

2. It's Going To Require Pursuit, Persistence, and Perseverance

**Pursue** - follow (someone or something) in order to catch or attack them: chase, go after.

**Persist** - continue firmly or obstinately in a course of action in spite of difficulty, opposition, or failure:

**Persevere** - remain constant to a purpose or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.