



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES PT. 3

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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 provides a myriad of opportunities in our lives, and He orders and orchestrates them for our good.

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

OPPORTUNITY - a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something; it is a favorable combination of circumstances, time, and place.

The biblical definition of opportunity is the chance to do something at a suitable or favorable time. The Greek word for opportunity is "kairós", which means "the suitable time, the right moment".

Divine opportunities aid us in fulfilling our God given 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.

AS OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD ARE ADDRESSED FIRST, OPPORTUNITIES TO PROSPER SPIRITUALLY AND MATERIALLY WILL MANIFEST.

Luke 5:1-11 - And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, People were making a demand to hear the word of God. 2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

Are you on standby awaiting your opportunity, or are you stagnant? Stagnation - a lack of development, growth, or advancement - no activity or any desire to be active. Standby - available to work, desire to be active...While the ships were on standby, preparation for the next opportunity was taking place.



3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him (requested) that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Jesus provided Simon an opportunity to assist in the proclamation of the gospel by using Simon's boat. There were other boats there, but Simon Peter's boat was chosen. When it's your time, it's your time.

Little - God may not require a lot, but the little you do can yield much. Zechariah 4:10 MSG - Does anyone dare despise this day of small beginnings?

What do you have at your disposal that God wants to use and provide you with an opportunity to assist in the proclamation of the gospel? How can you assist?

Opportunity will often request and require the gifts, talents, and resources you have, to be made available for use for the Kingdom.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Jesus had completed ministry to the masses; now, personal, one-on-one ministry was about to begin at the same location. God's multifaceted - He can do more than one thing at the same place amidst the same people.

Launch out into the deep/little from the land - The opportunity to acquire the blessing required more effort than the opportunity to sow the seed to position him for the blessing.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

It was a well-known fact that in the Sea of Galilee, fishermen caught fish at night in the shallow water, not in full daylight, in deep water. Simon Peter could have made numerous excuses to not obey the command of the Lord:

1. "The best fishing is at night, not in the daytime."
2. "I've worked all night and I'm tired."
3. "I know a lot more about how to fish than a carpenter does."
4. " With all the noise from the crowd and the teaching from the boat, I'm sure the fish have been scared away."
5. "We've already washed our nets."
6. "You may know about religion, but you don't know about fishing. " This opportunity was a crossroads in Peter's life. He could obey Jesus and launch out, or he could follow his senses and decline. When a divine opportunity is presented to you, it may not make sense to you in the natural.

What Peter didn't realize was that the choice he made in that moment would be pivotal to his receiving a temporary blessing and pivotal for the rest of his life.

One single act of obedience to God's command can change the course of an entire life.



When Peter chose to place his faith in the word of God, his life changed and would never be the same.

Your opportunity will often require a sacrifice - are you willing to make the sacrifice?

God determines the sacrifice; you submit to the sacrifice.

God will never require a sacrifice that you can't afford to give, and He will always provide the sacrifice for you to give. Human effort and divine opportunity - I'm tired - the enemy, through your physical and/or emotional fatigue, will try to get you to tap out, give up, quit, not engage the opportunity God has presented you.

Counter the move of the enemy and break his hold on your mind by obedience to the Word and the will of God.

II Corinthians 10:5.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

We must properly position ourselves for the prosperity God is bringing our way because we made the Kingdom of God a priority. Be sure you're prepared to receive a nets blessing and not just a net blessing. Take full advantage of the opportunity presented to you. Your preparation for the blessing you receive will often be determined by your expectation of the blessing you believe you will receive.

Ephesians 3:20 AMP - 20 Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us,

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. (people engaged together in the same activity) And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. The opportunity God uses to bless you can also be an opportunity to bless others through you. A "Pass The Bread" moment.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Romans 2:4 NKJV - 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

AMP - 4 Or do you have no regard for the wealth of His kindness and tolerance and patience [in withholding His wrath]? Are you [actually] unaware or ignorant [of the fact] that God's kindness leads you to repentance [that is, to change your inner self, your old way of thinking—seek His purpose for your life]?

We shouldn't view God's goodness as entitlement, (our deserving it) but see God's goodness as endearment, (His love and kindness expressed to us.) God's patience and love give us an opportunity to repent, to turn away from sin and seek Him. His goodness encourages a change of heart. Simon Peter had a change of heart that brought about repentance.

9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:



The opportunity God provides you is not only going to amaze you, but amaze others and give God glory. 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

God will accomplish multiple things out of one opportunity. Not only did God prosper Peter, James, and John, but they also accepted the call to the ministry to be a blessing to others.