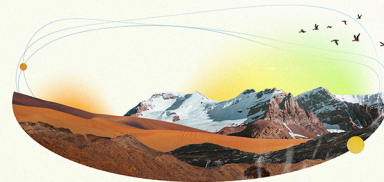


A BLESSED LIFE - TIME



PRECEPT

JOHN 15:4

Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me.

JAMES 4:14

Life is like a mist (a morning fog) that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

PROMISE

What does it really mean to be blessed? Some people may equate blessings with financial wealth. We must remember that wealth is not necessarily a sign of God's blessing. In fact, some of the unhappiest, uncontented, and miserable people are those who have great earthly wealth. Earthly blessings are temporary; they can all be taken away. The truth is, God's ultimate intention is to bless all of us. This is why Jesus came so we can experience the greatest blessing of having a personal relationship with Him. Jeremiah 29:11 also said that God's plan is not to harm us but to bless us, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* But, there are three things we need to consider when talking about God's blessings. Firstly, God's blessing has nothing to do with what we have in life, but what we are in Him. God's blessing is characterized by our faithfulness to obey what He wants us to do. It is also based on our willingness to follow His plan, doing it according to His ways and will. What we become in Jesus is more important than what we have in life, for God is more concerned with our character than our comfort. Secondly, God's blessing has something to do with what we are capable of managing in life. While God's intention is to bless all of us, God also bases His blessing on our capabilities to manage His blessings. One example is that a lot of us are not capable of handling a lot of money and the pressure that comes with it, that's why we do not have a lot of money in our possession. Also, some of us are not being called to take leadership roles in the ministry because we might not be able to handle stress in the ministry. So God blesses us in different ways since we have different gifts and callings. We are also not to compare our blessings to others for we can only manage certain things. Luke 12:48 reiterates this, *"When someone has been given much, much will be required in return, and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required."* Lastly, God's blessing has something to do with our willingness to be a blessing to others. If we are being a blessing to others, God will bless us too; the more we bless others, the more that we will experience God's blessings. Jesus said in Luke 6:38, *"The way you treat others is the way you will be treated."* So for us to be a blessing to others, let's make good use of our time.

THE BEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE IS TIME. 1 John 3:18 says, *"Let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth."* Love requires action, and every action requires time. If we love someone, the best indication of that love is our time with that person. If we love God, we must spend time with Him. If we love our family (spouse and children), we must spend quality time with them.

INTIMACY WITH GOD REQUIRES TIME. James 4:8 says, *"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."* The key to grow in our relationship with God is spending time with Him. The more we spend time with God, the more He will reveal Himself to us, then the more we will know His amazing plan for our life, His will for our life, and the more that we will be eager to do His ways for our life.

MAKE TIME TO REST. This is a command from God. Genesis, Exodus, Psalms (23), Proverbs, and Prophets Jeremiah mentioned this. In the New Testament, In Matthew and Hebrews, Jesus Himself modelled rest.

ENJOY THE BLESSING OF YOUR INVESTMENT. Psalm 90:12-13 tells us, *"Teach us to use wisely all the time we have, so that we may grow in wisdom."* It's never too late to change the trajectory of our life. Spend it with God and serving His people. Spend it with our family, friends, and loved ones. Spend it doing noble things in life. Stop wasting time and invest it wisely.

PRACTICE

1. A Blessed Life. What do you think it means to be 'blessed' by God? How can you be a blessing to others?

2. Managing Time. What do you need to cut out of your schedule or what changes do you need to make to manage your time more wisely?

PRAYER

I. Life Link

- Pray that they will continue to usher people with smiles and welcoming hands.

II. Life Worship

- Pray that they will aim for excellence in leading people to worship.

III. Life Sports

- Praise God for healthy bodies that allows us to exercise and play sports.

IV. Life Kids

- Pray for more volunteers to teach, assist, and support our kids ministry in the church.

V. Disciples

- Let us not get tired and weary of sharing Christ and discipling others for His glory.

VI. Pastors

- Pray for strength and continued passion for our pastors.

VII. Worship Services

- Pray for more souls each Sunday to know and experience Christ.