

Unlocking Our Personal Potential!

Part 3: "Numbering Days, Being Wise!"

Last time together... Unlocking our personal potential... Beginning with a commitment to: *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."* **Colossians 3.17** "Whether we eat, drink, or whatsoever we do... *do it for the glory of God... giving no offense to anyone...* **1Cor 10.31** *Whatever* we do, we want it to be HIS will, in HIS name, for HIS glory! Doing the things we know are "right" which means turning from dead works...

Dead Works! Things we did when dead in sin... Doubting God... **Heb 6.1** Tempting and testing and seeking signs from Him! **Mt 4.7 16.1-4** Laying out fleece's before Him! **Judges 6.37ff** "Asking" for things to consume on our own lusts! **James 4.3** Daring Him to stop us! **Rom 13.2 2T3.8**

Shaking our fists, hurling our insults at heaven and using His name in vain!

Expressing and experiencing our sexual lusts, indulging our devotion to personal pleasures, drunkenness, living to party hardy, reckless living and setting up abominable idols... **1Peter 4.3ff** Walking thru life in the vanity of our own minds, with darkened understanding, alienated from God thru ignorance and blindness of heart... beyond feeling and giving ourselves over *to anything that will make us feel again...* **Eph 4.17ff** "the works of the flesh which are: adultery, fornication (porneia), uncleanness (a-katharsia: *unchanged*), lewdness (aselgia), idolatry, sorcery (pharmekia), hatred, contentions, competitions, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness (methe), revelries (komos: letting go), and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **Gal 5.19-21**

Told you about some of my things, that weren't necessarily your things, but "dead works" I turned from...

Changes... The illicit sex... The use of drugs and alcohol... The swearing... Anger too! The reason I worked! There were other things that were my things... Music had to go/used it to "ride..." Mixed religions had to go: SRF (Kriya Yoga of Yogi/guru Paramahansa Yogananda) All Eastern and occultic arts; martial, meditative, medium's, magic... **Those were my things... but what were some of your things?**

"Things..." **Envy?** Coveting/competing for what someone else has? **Jealousy?** Fear/anger of being replaced? **Emulations?** Wanting to be like someone else? **Anxiety?** Uneasiness/fear of unknown? **Anger?** Violence? Abusiveness? **Pretending/duplicity?** **Pornography?**

All those things He put His finger on are "His things" He wants done away...!

So... Unlocking our personal potential... **Begins with the commitment to do all things as unto Him!** **Turning ourselves from dead works to the living God to "fulfill rightness..."** To elevate the quality of life around us, doling out compassion, valuing every life, relieving suffering, dealing with what "is," as we live unshakable! **Knowing the One we worship! Living by His words! Looking at the horizon of eternity...**

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad!" **2Cor 5.10**

"Moreover, it is required that stewards ("house" managers) be found faithful!" **1Cor 4.2**

"After the Lord of the servants delivered to them His goods... He came to reckon with them... Well done, good and faithful servant!" **Mt 25.21**

So, what about the day of your “reckoning?” Self-assured? Nonchalant? Far away? **May be closer than you think!**

Psalm 90.8-12 “Because of our sins our days are passed away under wrath, we bring our years to an end and they seem as a tale that is told. The days of our years are seventy and if by reason of strength, eighty, but even our best years are accompanied by labor and sorrows and then they are cut off and we fly away... so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom!

“Because of sin we pass our days in a hostile environment. Our years come to an end and they seem like a fictional tale told by someone else. The days of our years are seventy and if we are strong, eighty, but even our best years require hard work and there’s still too much sorrow and then they are over and we fly away... so teach us to number our days so that we can apply ourselves to living wisely!

Unwise... To get old(er) and find ourselves “aside” from what’s still happening! Anyone who persists in staying “the same” will soon find themselves “sidelined!” Must remain useful/relevant/in the flow! **To get stuck in the past, sins and all!** Not only is it unwise to carry the past in bitterness and unforgiveness... But without renewal, without transformation, without putting off the old man, lusts of youth, life will be just a worn out story of the “good old days!” **To age and not pay special attention to the strength of your body!** Except in extreme cases, our bodies slow down... Makes us ready for heaven! Nothing can be more damaging to life and vitality than abuse or ignorance here... Don’t go all childish in older years! Eat right, exercise as much as you can... Realize your limitations... Exceeding them can cost you precious time! **To grow old(er) and not have a network of generational friends!** “He who has had friends in his time dies at last with only the caretaker...” The one who has a vital circle of friends leaves celebrated! Children and children’s children should celebrate at your home-going! While you have breath, reach out and reach down, span time to the generations! **Grow old(er) and not made any friends for yourself in eternal habitations!** Pretty sure heaven is a happy place... But the happiest will be those who have sent many on before them! “Do the work of an evangelist...” **2Tim 4.1-8** “Use your resources to bring people to salvation...” **Lk 16.9** “Be engaged in the harvest of men’s souls!” **John 4.34-38**

Wise... To number our days and limit the days of vanity! To know where we are and what we are about!

Where are we? Laying in sovereign foundations? Taking in the word; finding out who you are, what believe, what made for! **Inner life growth?** Drawing near for intimate relationship; finding out who He is/from Savior to Lord! **Ministry discovery?** Finding your place/laying down life/developing skills, discovering gifts! **Life maturing?** Organizing priorities, taking control! **Convergence/afterglow?** “For this...”/downloading to others!

To reverence the Lord and fear arriving without fulfilling our mission! AND, To discover and unlock our potential to elevate the quality of life around us, doling out compassion, valuing every life, relieving suffering, dealing with what “is,” as we live unshakable in our times!