

Unlocking Our Personal Potential!

Part 4: "I Wanna Live!"

"I wann'a live! I don't wanna die! I figured that out in the third grade!" –Carlin

Last time together... We've been unlocking our personal potential with this first commitment:

"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... *we do it for the glory of God... giving no offense to anyone...*

1Cor10.31 It's HIS will, in HIS name, for HIS glory! We endeavor to "fulfill rightness" by turning from the dead works we did when we were still dead in sin...

Dead Works! When we were dead in sin we... Doubted God... **Heb 6.1** Fulfilled the lusts of the flesh!

1Pet4.3ff Walked thru life in the vanity of our minds! **Eph 4.17ff** As children needed the elemental laws to rein in bad behavior! **Col 2.20** Allowed our love for the world to keep us away from God! **1John 2.15ff**

The Blood of Christ purges our conscience from dead works to serve the living God! **Heb 9.14**

And there are some dead works that fall off immediately and some that take a little more time for discovery...

Last time together... Then we closed off our study to unlock our potential with these things: *We must know the God we worship! We must draw near to know Him! We must live by His words!* Written and Holy Spirit spoken! *We must live; do all we do, judge all we do, with an eye on the eternal horizon!*

"We must all appear before Christ to give an account for the things done in the body, good or bad!" **2Cor 5.10**

"And His house stewards must be found faithful!" **1Cor 4.2**

"And the faithful will hear, well done good and faithful servant, enter into My joy and rule over..." **Mt 25.21**

In all we do in His name, for His glory, we must be aware that our time is limited to do it!

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!*

To place a limit on our number of years, to make it "finite..." is offensive to some... But it's good... because it means they're hearing and thinking about it!

In the Case of Limits... It is wise to "number our days" so that we don't squander any by thinking they are unlimited! It is the *ignorance* of humanity to think we have all the time in the world... The only things limitless are God and eternity! It is our *idolatry* that says we can do with our time what we want... And the idol we set up is... us! It is our *irresponsibility* to believe we won't have to give an account to anyone! **There is a well-defined "carry-over!"**

The 70/80 years is not a hard number, not a “cease and desist” order, not a “life sentence!” “With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.!” **Ps 91.16** “If you walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments... then I will *lengthen your days.*” **1Kings 3.14** “Do not forget My law, let your heart keep them, *for length of days and long life and peace will they add to you...*” **Pr 3.1,2**
The guy who penned the words, MOSES, lived to be 120 yrs. old!

It is up for “discussion” and subject to the discretion of God! Moses was just getting started at the “upper limit” of eighty! **Hezekiah**, is sick to death, Isaiah tells him to set his house in order because “you will die and not live!” **2Ki20.1ff/ 2Ch32.24/ Is38.1ff** He turns his face toward the Lord. The Lord turns the prophet around, saying, “You will live 15 more years!” Makes his biggest mistakes in old age! **Paul**, at a point in old age, prepared to die and receive his crown, “in straits between two places... stays to further the faith of the disciples!” **Phil 1.20ff, 2Cor5.8 2Tim 4.6ff**

So, the duration of life is up for discussion... but what about the central question? Why?

The length of our days is open for discussion... BUT TO WHAT END? The Reader of the thoughts and intents of men’s hearts, asks... Not because He doesn’t know why... But because we need to know... ourselves! **Moses** stayed to serve God’s people... **Paul** stayed to strengthen the faith of God’s people... **Hezekiah** stayed and handed down a mess to his progeny/God’s people...

WHY do we want to live long lives? “Cuz, I wanna live! I don’t wanna die!”

Not good enough! To get married and have kids... see my kids get married and have kids... who get married... (about 80 years!) Only the “pride of life” if there’s no eternal focus for their salvation! Better to not live long to see them lost! **I want to live long enough to make some money, see the world...** Vanity! Wood, hay, stubble... rubble! Unless your travel takes you to people in those places to serve, save! **Do we want to live long lives because we are afraid of death?** That says something about our belief! If Heaven is real and this place isn’t our home then death is a doorway to LIFE! Now none of us have the right to put ourselves there early! Sovereign issue! But maybe we have more hope than faith! **We need to check ourselves!** Want to fill the bucket list JUST IN CASE? Experiential? Curious? *Or doubting?* Hedging the bet: “Want to lay down a full life if heaven’s not real!”

Why do you want to live long? To prosper? Or to love and serve your family, friends and world?

It is wise to number your days, to live them out with forceful purpose and then if you want more... ask!

But answer, before you ask...

World: “Make life about you and your thingdom!”

God: Make life about Me and My Kingdom!

“Me:” _____

World: Make life about “Living!”

God: Make life about “Saving!”

“Me:” _____