

## GOD

### Living One Day at a Time

God, our heavenly Father, desires that we enjoy many great benefits in our lives as we believe Him and act on our believing. As we believe and live one day at a time, we can even overcome the world, the sphere of influence of the adversary:

#### I John

5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

We see in this verse that it is our faith, our believing God, that gives us the victory that overcomes the world. When do we believe God? The past is past. So, we can't go back and change anything by believing when we didn't before. And, we don't want to wait until next week, or even tomorrow, to begin believing God! As we'll see, for us to overcome the world with its negative influences, we need to believe God now.

Today, this moment in time, is the only time we have available at our figurative "fingertips" to believe God, not just for our current needs and desires but also for what we may need or desire in the future. Today is also the only time that we can directly utilize our physical, mental, and spiritual resources to make an impact on our lives and on the lives of others. We can only live one day at a time. I have often used this truth of "one day at a time" when listening to and helping people who were going through opportunities that to them seemed overwhelming.

We'll take a look at what God's Word says about today, the present moment in time that we have available to us. We'll see that this is the time in which God can bless us, and we'll see the importance of doing what God desires that we do now. We'll then consider how, as we live today, we can have an impact on the future, not by being anxious, but by prayer and planning with believing. Even then, it all comes down to living one day at a time.

We'll start in Psalm 118, where we'll read verse 24:

#### Psalms

118:24 This *is* the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Lord, Jehovah, God in His personal relationship to us, has made this day available to us; and we have a choice what to do with it. Our decision should be what this verse says: rejoice and be glad. We can do this as we walk in fellowship with our heavenly Father today. As we do, we will recognize the truth expressed in Psalm 68, verse 19:

68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us *with benefits, even* the God of our salvation.  
Selah.

Our personal God provides us with benefits and blessings each and every day. When we recognize this, no matter what the circumstances may be that surround us, we can respond by

being thankful. As I Thessalonians 5:18 says, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”.

When we recognize how great our God is, we will do what we see in Psalm 145 as part of our daily walk:

#### Psalm

145:1 I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

145:2 Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.

God’s Word should be in our minds and hearts each day.

#### Psalm

119:97 O how I love thy law (*God’s Word*)! It *is* my meditation all the day.

Let’s take a look at a few verses that tell us what God says about us now, this day in which we live. We’ll begin in I John chapter 3 with a familiar verse:

#### I John

3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

The Greek word for “sons” in verse 2 is *teknon*, beloved children. When are we beloved children of God? Right now! We don’t have to wait, and we have the hope of Christ’s Return to look forward to. In the meantime, we should endeavor to remain “pure” (uncontaminated by evil). Look at chapter 2, verse 28:

2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Now (not tomorrow!) we, God’s children, are exhorted to “abide in him” – in Christ, in fellowship. As we do this, when Christ returns, we will have “confidence”, or boldness, and won’t be ashamed at the *bema* because we will receive eternal rewards.

#### Romans

12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

12:2 And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

To renew our mind is to put the Word of God in mind and act accordingly. When are we to do this? Now! We don’t wait until tomorrow.

We see more about renewing our mind now in Ephesians, Chapter 4:

## Ephesians

4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation (*conduct, lifestyle*) the old man (*the "old man" nature*), which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts (*according to the desires of the deceiver*);

4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

4:24 And that ye put on the new man (*the new nature*), which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Again, we do this now! Let's continue:

4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor (*fellow believer in the household*): for we are members one of another.

4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

We deal truly with each other in the household, fellow members in the Body of Christ. And, if issues come up that lead to righteous indignation, we are to address these issues today (before "the sun goes down"), so we don't dwell on them and give in to sin: we don't want to "give place" (give opportunity) to the adversary.

As children of God, we also have the ministry of reconciliation, as we know from II Corinthians chapter 5 beginning in verse 18. When should we plan on operating this ministry of reconciliation? Let's look at Chapter 6, beginning in verse 1, which is still in this context:

## II Corinthians

6:1 We then, as workers together *with him*, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

Notice that the words "with him" are in italics: they are not in the text and should be deleted. From the context of being ambassadors for Christ, this verse declares that we, the believers standing together in the household, are "workers together" with each other (not with God, as God does not have the ministry of reconciliation, having committed unto us the word of reconciliation). We don't want God's grace to be "in vain", of no effect, so we work together to reach out to others. When do we do this? Look at the next verse, which begins with a quote from Isaiah 49:8:

6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

We don't have to wait: we can operate our ministry of reconciliation now (today).

Ephesians, Chapter 5 sums up nicely what we should be doing today, and gives us a reason why. Let's look at just a few verses:

## Ephesians

5:1 Be ye therefore followers (*imitators*) of God as dear children:

5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

We are to walk in love now. Don't wait until tomorrow.

5:8 For ye were sometimes (*once*) darkness (*spiritually blind*), but now *are ye* light in the Lord: Walk as children of light:

When are we “light in the Lord”? Now! We are to walk as “children of light” now, as we are the lights of the world.

5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly (*precisely*), not as fools (*unwise*), but as wise,

So, we are to walk in love, walk as children of light, and walk circumspectly. When? Now (today). We see why in the next verse:

5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The “days”, this time, are “evil”, full of endeavors by the adversary to work mischief, so in our walk we want to “redeem the time”. The word “time” here can be more literally understood as “opportunity” – a certain limited amount of time that is available. Because each one of us has only a limited amount of time available, we want to “redeem”, literally “buy out”, that time: make full use of it as we live day by day, moment by moment.

As we redeem the time in our precise walk, we want to evaluate things that may come up, because obviously not everything will be good. Look at Romans chapter 12, verse 9:

### Romans

12:9 *Let* love be without dissimulation (*without hypocrisy*). Abhor that which is evil; cleave (*hold tight*) to that which is good.

Also, look at I Thessalonians chapter 5, verse 21:

### I Thessalonians

5:21 Prove all things: hold fast to that which is good.

5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

“Prove” means to examine and judge. We are to consider everything that comes up, and “hold on tight” to what is good. When do we do this? Now!

The importance of living our lives one day at a time, being vigilant to do today what we can rather than waiting until tomorrow, is stressed in God's Word:

### Proverbs

27:1 Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

We want to live life to its fullest today, not relying on what we will do tomorrow, because nobody but God knows what might happen after this moment. Who knows? Our life could even come to an end, or Christ might come back. So, what do we do today? Look at Ecclesiastes chapter 9, verse 10:

### Ecclesiastes

9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with all thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Nobody knows when death will come, and we know from God's Word that when you're dead, you're dead – your next thought will not be until Christ returns. So, make use of the present time you have available, and put forth your best effort in whatever you do.

An important thing to keep in mind as we live one day at a time is that we don't have to do it all on our own: we have a loving heavenly Father who will take care of us as we do our part and look to him.

### Psalms

37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

37:5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring *it* to pass.

God wants us to trust, to rely on, Him.

We know we are to live one day at a time. But does that mean we don't think about the future, about what we want to do then? No! We all have goals of things we want to accomplish. And, we need to take the time necessary to visualize and plan for these goals. As Luke chapter 14, verse 28 says, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*?"

Yes, we all have needs, both immediate ones and future ones. We do need to consider these needs. But we are not ever to become anxious or unduly concerned about these needs being met. We just read in Psalm 37 that God will take care of us as we trust Him.

We see this even more strongly as we consider part of Jesus Christ's great teaching on a mountain that is recorded in Matthew, chapters 5 through 7. The part we'll consider here is still pertinent to us in today's Grace Administration, and drives home the point that even though we will have needs in the future, rather than being anxious about them we are to rely on God and focus on living today. Chapter 6, verses 19 through 34, record a part of this teaching with the focus on learning to keep God first. We'll pick it up in verse 25:

### Matthew

6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

The word “thought” in this verse is from the Greek word *merimnaō*, meaning anxiety or undue concern. While we may need to consider where our food, clothing, and other needs will come from in the future, perhaps requiring working a job to earn the needed finances or other planning on our part, we are never to become anxious about these needs being met, no matter what the circumstances.

- 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?  
6:27 Which of you by taking thought (*by having undue concern*) can add one cubit unto his stature?

These verses refer to the first part of the needs expressed in verse 25, food and drink to provide nourishment for our bodies to keep them healthy. In verse 27, adding a cubit to your stature has nothing to do with your height (why would you want to be eighteen inches taller?). The word “stature”, according to Bullinger’s *Lexicon*, refers to “adulthood, maturity of life, mind, age, or person”. This phrase is actually an orientalism. In the culture of the time, one’s “stature” referred to one’s age. Verse 27 is better understood as: “Which of you by being anxious, having undue concern, can prolong your life a single moment?” In other words, being anxious about your physical health and wholeness will not help you live longer.

The next verses focus on the second main need expressed in verse 25: protection in the form of clothing (and shelter):

- 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:  
6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.  
6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith (*believing God*)?

Now we come to a great summary:

- 6:31 Therefore take no thought (*don’t be anxious*), saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?  
6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles (*multitudes*) seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.  
6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

As we put God first, trusting Him and relying on Him, He will supply all of our needs (Philippians 4:19).

- 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Because we know that God will meet our needs, we never have to be anxious about them being met in the future. We can focus on living today, never worrying about tomorrow.

Let's conclude with a look at Philippians, Chapter 4, verses 6 and 7, which will establish that we are never to be anxious.

### Philippians

4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through (*in*) Christ Jesus.

The word “careful” in verse 6 is from the Greek word *merimnaō*, translated “thought” in Matthew chapter 6 but meaning “anxiety” or “undue concern”. We are not to be anxious about anything. This includes things happening today as well as things or needs in the future. Instead of being anxious, we “let our requests be made known unto God” as we pray. And we know from verses like Matthew 21:22 and Mark 11:24 that to get results to prayer, we need to believe God. Then we can experience the great peace of God mentioned in verse 7.

Remember from I John chapter 5, verse 4 that our believing God is what provides us the victory to overcome the world. We can truly do this as we live one day at a time.

- Dr. Rick Batt