

Opportunities

Where do opportunities come from? Why is it that some seem to have so many more opportunities for success and growth than others? It is common to hear someone say, "I would have done better if I had been given the opportunity." Isn't it amazing that some people seem to have those open doors for action, to say the right words and do the right deeds, but others have all the pent up feelings of wanting to do and say the right things, but wait in vain for the opportunity to do so?

God said, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. This suggests several points about our opportunities.

Sometimes we don't have the open doors because we have grown tired and weary. We just don't have the zest in our hearts anymore to make the moves necessary to find or take advantage of the

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

opportunities. Tired blood has invaded many hearts. Energy is gone. This kind of tiredness seldom is cured by more rest. Actually, the more rest we get the more tired we feel.

There is no use in God opening doors for us when we don't have the energy to go in. Therefore, if we want the opportunities to come, we must stay involved in doing the good deeds all along. We must sow the seeds of good deeds, for the harvest of opportunity to produce a bumper crop. What is lost when we become weary and tired out in doing good, is the heart. Discouragement reigns.

Cultivate the opportunities by doing good when you have the opportunity. When we become so picky about what kind of good deed we are willing to do, we cut off the chances to serve. Like doctors, we can become so specialized we are not much good to most people. The kid who says he or she does not want to waste time playing little league—they are going to save their efforts for the pros, won't ever have the chance to play anywhere. The employee who waits for a job in management to really give themselves to, thinking the job they now have is somehow beneath their ability and dignity, will never have the chance to do anything which really makes a difference.

The point is simple. Use the opportunities you have today effectively, giving your very best. The result will be that God will open bigger doors with better opportunities for you. But if you don't use the ones you have effectively, no better ones will ever come.

—adapted from Leon Barnes Barrow Road Church of Christ Little Rock, Arkansas





—Hallie Davidson is in the Hart County Health Care Center in Horse Cave. Continue to remember Mandy Hankins, Jean Coffee, Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jimmy Terry.

******* ★ * The Value of Time

- —To realize the value of one *year* ask a student who has failed a final exam.
- —To realize the value of one *month* ask a monthly magazine who has been scooped on a major story.
- —To realize the value of one *week* ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.
- —To realize the value of one *hour* ask the student who is waiting for a class to end or a mother waiting anxiously for a child to arrive home late at night.
- —To realize the value of one *minute* ask the person who has missed the train, bus or plane.
- —To realize the value of one *second* ask a person who has survived an accident.
- —To realize the value of one *millisecond* Ask the person who has come in second in the Olympics

Time— it waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.

—adapted from Rod Hovter via University Hills Church of Christ, Austin, Texas

| Sunday, July 19, 2009 | | |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Classes | 17 | Matthew 5:1:1-12 |
| Preaching | 22 | Acts 2:36-42 |
| Contribution | \$402.00 | |
| Evening | 17 | Daniel 5:1-31 |
| Wednesday, July 22, 2009 | | |
| Classes | 18 | Exodus 24:1-18 |

Bible Quiz

Under the Lord's feet was paved work like what?

Last Week's Answer—Hornets (Exodus 23:28)

We are recording the audio of each service. If anyone is interested in a recording of any service, they are available on cassette or compact disk.



—God's Plan of Salvation—

- 1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
- 2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
- 3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
- 4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
- 5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
- 6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)