

Today

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

Jesus lived in the moment, and knew that the past, present, and future, come together in serving our God faithfully. In the details of the day, and the hope for the future, God works to bring fulfillment and purpose to the Christian’s life.

When Jesus read the scripture in the temple at the beginning of his ministry, he said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your sight.” He was proclaiming that God’s word was coming to be at that very moment, as he took up his ministry and ultimately went to the cross for you and me.

As you and I walk through this column today, there are many things that will go right, and some that will go wrong. The key is to know that God holds every moment in his hand, and to trust him in good and bad. This perspective is a gift from God, and every day becomes a day of discovery and faith.

Learn to see each day as a wonderful gift from God, and each one will be a blessing. Never forget that each day is a gift. That is why they call it the present.

What this means for us is that there is absolutely no situation that God cannot handle. When we realize this, and place our hand in his, doubt can disappear, depression flies away, difficult moments are that no longer.

Elizabeth George wrote that “Each day God’s gift of a fresh, unspoiled opportunity to live according to his priorities. What this does is take the pressure off of our shoulders and place it in the hands of the one who can handle anything.

Instead of thinking that we should fix the moment, we partner with God to see the possibilities. We trust rather than panic, we walk rather than crawl.

Joshua brought the people of Israel together and implored them to follow God. He said, “Choose you today whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve, we will serve the Lord.”

There is a real sense in which we need to look at our nation and trust God. There may be many things politically that we fear. There may be many that we are glad about. The secret to deeper faith is to trust when things are blowing our way, and to trust when things are not.

It’s like the words of Jesus when he said to love our enemies. The world would not say that. God does, because he makes possible thing we would never ever think of, and works beyond the edge of human limitations.

Bless those who persecute us, he says. We must number our days, as God urges us, value them, and know that they can all count, no matter how we feel, in our journey to heaven.

That is why numbering our days is important. Whether we realize we have lived more than we have yet to live, or are at the beginning, each day is a new opportunity, with each sunrise and breaking of the dawn a gift from God just for us.

Another translation of that phrase is to teach us wisely to use all the time we have. The implication is to use that time to consider our priorities, and to see our lives as a chance to serve God and others.

Perhaps the critical shift in thinking is to realize that we should care much more for others than we are, and to spend our lives thinking of who we might serve, and in doing things that are blessings to others.

We would want others when we are no longer in the world to say we were a blessing, rather than we were a pain. The way to do that is to take in the wonderful thoughts and blessings God sends our way, and to spend the rest of our time passing them on to others.

Today will come and go. The only question is, what will we have done?

Praying, loving, helping, hoping, trusting, saving, blessing. These are the things we can do today. Whether it is in a quiet prayer or a physical action, it is today explosive stuff.

As Mark Twain said, "Apparently there is nothing that cannot happen **today**."