



By Dr. Richard Youngblood

***Question: How can I find time for a relationship with God through prayer, Bible reading and meditation with the busy life we must live in today's world?***

The fast-paced, highly-demanding and competitive American lifestyle that many of us live makes it very difficult to find time for God. We feel pressured to excel at our work, to provide for the needs and wants of the family, to keep up with the latest movies, TV shows and sports events, as well as to volunteer for community and church work. The list could continue. No wonder we have so little time for a spiritual relationship with an unseen God.

However, no one has ever had a busier life and a more important agenda than did Jesus. Yet, he always found ample time to be alone with his heavenly father. In order to follow his example, I believe Jesus would urge us to re-evaluate our priorities and see that we save some time and energy for that which is of greatest eternal importance. The most vital need for each one of us is to come to know and love God and to live in humble obedience to our creator God, the heavenly father.

To do this, I find it helpful to look at life with a one-hundred-year perspective. One-hundred years from now will it matter whether we were top producers in our companies? Who in this world will even know about it then? Will it matter in one-hundred years that we did or did not have the largest house or most beautiful lawn in the neighborhood? Will it matter whether we always wore the latest style clothes or that we never attended another sports event or watched another TV show? But it will matter that we did or did not have an eternal relationship with God! Even as wonderful as it may be to serve with the church and do good works in the community, that cannot take the place of spiritual strength drawn from personal time with God.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us not to lay up treasure on earth but in heaven. He said that if we will seek the kingdom of God first, God will see that we are able to have things like food, clothes and shelter as they are needed. We can trust the God who feeds the birds and clothes flowers of the field to care for us, too. Jesus also said we should learn to live one day at a time instead of worrying about having what we need in life (Matthew 6:25-34). According to Jesus, the Father knows what we need even before we do. If we seek him and his kingdom first, he will provide all we truly need in life.

By re-evaluating our priorities and re-organizing our time accordingly, we may have to sacrifice some of the things we are now doing, as well as some of our possessions. But we may be very surprised at how blessed we will be in almost every way, even with some of our losses. Most importantly, by rearranging our priorities, we can have time to develop a relationship with God that will last far longer than one-hundred years. As the apostle Paul wrote: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Where do you expect to be one-hundred years from now? What are the things you expect to have with you then? What are the things that will be of value to you at that time? May you be determined not to allow anything that cannot last to control your life now? Place a one-hundred year perspective on life. This will help you prioritize your life and find time for our eternal heavenly Father even in an extremely busy world.

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