

In GOD's Time

ACTS 1:4-5 ESV And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁽⁵⁾ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

ACTS 1:14 ESV All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

ACTS 1:7-8 ESV He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁽⁸⁾ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Housekeeping Takes Time

JAMES 4:8-10 ESV Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁽⁹⁾ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

PSALMS 19:12-14 NLT How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. ⁽¹³⁾ Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. ⁽¹⁴⁾ May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Can I Surrender My Time?

HEBREWS 11:6 NLT And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. (**MKJV** He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.)

LUKE 22:41-43 ESV And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁽⁴²⁾ saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” ⁽⁴³⁾ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

PROVERBS 3:9-10 NLT Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Empowered Discussion:

1. How well do you respect GOD, with regards to prayer?
2. In what way do you use your prayer time to deal with sin issues in your life?
3. What would it look like to set aside time with God in prayer, daily?

Power Up:

Fully surrender your time to GOD in prayer!

PRAYER TO GLORIFY GOD

Father in heaven You alone are the King. You alone deserve all the fame on this earth. I deserve none of it. I confess that my ambitions have too often centered upon myself, my happiness, my control, my reputation, and my name. In my old nature, this was my natural way of living.

But I want to change all of that. It is hard because I don't know what You will say. But I know You are good and loving. Therefore, whatever You speak will be for Your great glory and my great delight. I only want to serve You and make You famous. So, Father, I am asking You to show me how to make Your name more famous through my life. Glorify Your name through me! Forgive me for asking You, "What is Your will for my life?"

Instead, show me Your will. Show me what You are doing in this world in this generation. Let my understanding be based on Your word and not on my own ideas. As You unfold Your will, then would You allow me the privilege of serving You and Your cause in this world? Show me how my life can best serve You and make You most famous.

As Samuel prayed as a child so I pray, "Speak for Your servant hears." (1 Samuel 3:9) I surrender my dreams, aspirations, hopes, to live only for You. Make me someone who makes You famous.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh, Father in heaven, You are righteous and I am not. Like a sheep, I have gone astray from You. My thoughts are not Your thoughts. My own will has taken over in many areas of my life. And that is Sin. I confess to You that I am sinful and in need of Your cleansing power in my life. Shine Your light on my heart and show me every area in which I have gone astray from You.

As David prayed, I pray as well:

"Search me, O God and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there are any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139:23-24) As You do, I confess each sin to You and seek Your forgiveness. I want to be a clean vessel to honor You, a vessel in which Your Spirit can live and work.

Clean me thoroughly and make me whiter than snow. Let there be no impure thoughts, no unresolved relationship, and no offense that I have not made right. I open my life before You right now. Cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Making me right before You.

PRAYER OF HUNGER

Oh Lord, You alone are my portion! You are the only inheritance I want. Wow! How delightful are the boundary lines of my inheritance in You! I delight in You and the portion You have given me in life. Oh Father, show me Your glory. Show me more of You. For, I want You, not just Your promises. I want Your presence, not just Your presents. I want Your Spirit, not just the fruit of Your Spirit.

You are my treasure in my reward. Let me not leave this place without Your clear and majestic presence in my life. I want to know You, the power of Jesus's resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings better. (Phil. 3:10) Jesus, do not leave me like an orphan, but come to me. I long for Your presence.

Let me delight in You, in my relationship with You, then in any earthly thing—any achievement, any relationship, any treasure, any aspiration, any interest, any hobby. Like the man who found the treasure hidden in the field, I sell everything joyfully to have You. (Matt. 13:44-45) Oh, give me Yourself! I am hungry. Let me taste and see that You are good. (Psalm 34:8)

PRAYER OF SURRENDER

Oh Father, I have prayed to know Your will. I have asked how my life can bring the greatest glory to You. I have prayed the prayer of glorifying Your name. I now understand better the implications of what that means. I have counted the cost. I know it will not be easy.

Father, I am scared to surrender. I lack the courage to obey. It's so much easier to do my will rather than Yours. Yet, with my Lord Jesus, I pray, "not my will, but Yours!" With clarity, remind me what Your will is and how I can best serve that. As You reveal it to me, give me the courage to say "Yes!" to You. I want to raise from this encounter with resolve to Your will more than life itself.

I surrender my fears to You. I surrender my uncertainty. I know You will answer every question in due time. I know You will walk with me down this path, and that gives me great courage. I know that serving You will bring the greatest delight. With Jesus, I say, "My food is to do Your will and to accomplish Your work." (John 4:34)

Minister to me with Your angels. Minister to me with Your presence. This decision is not easy. Reassure my heart that surrender is good. Reassure my heart that You will uphold me.

Not my will, but Yours!