



LifeSpot ... Four truths about time

Time is life

All those things you have—health, home, car, family, toys, job, and so on—are not ultimately yours, because the second you die, they're gone. But don't be depressed! What you do have is amazing. No matter what your circumstances, as long as you live you have *time*. Time is Heaven's gift placed daily at your door in 24-hour segments. You alone customise this gift, you alone determine its value. Today is crucial. This hour is significant. The hour crafts your day. The day writes your life. We're describing a truth the apostle Paul knew well. Walk wisely, he advised, making the most of every living and breathing moment that is yours. See Ephesians 5:15–16.

Time is yours

There are two ways to live. Option One: Time controls you. Option Two: You control time. Time doesn't care either way—it's just there, mindless, neutral, and scientifically equal for all. Option One is the default setting. But you can switch your life completely away from the default! To select Option Two is a stand of righteous rebellion. It's a miracle of God on your behalf. Option Two says, "From this moment in time I assert my right to act as Chief Operating Officer over each day Heaven gives me. God, I place all the pieces of my life before you. Give me a fresh start! Rewrite the text of my life as I open the book of my life to your eyes." See Psalm 18:20–24 (MSG).

Time is sweet

Education and accomplishment are good, but there's something beyond. When people in my line of work speak in public, the audience doesn't care about our degrees and titles. These are the questions on the minds of the people we face: (a) Do you like us? (b) Do I like you? And (c), Do you have something of benefit for me today? People care about character, personality, general appearance, and value. From this day forward, will you spend time becoming thoughtful, real, healthy, valuable and engaging? "Don't lose a minute," says Paul. Build "good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love." 2 Peter 1:5–7 (MSG).

Time is short

Life is like a game of Monopoly. We do our best to win. But then the game is over, and we go back in a box. How quickly it happens! We like to say how time goes. But really, time stays, and we go. If you find this depressing, praise the Lord! It means you have feelings. You are alive. Unlike those already dead or never born, you can "enjoy the fugitive hour" and make a meaningful contribution to life on Earth. You have sorrows. But you also have joys—probably more than the average in this world. Don't be obsessed with the length of your life. Rather, develop its width and its depth. "How wonderful to live in the sunshine! ... Take delight in each light-filled hour." Ecclesiastes 11:7–8 (MSG).