

Each day God gives us opportunities to improve our lives

Jesus taught that we should live in “day-tight” compartments, not trying to take on all of life’s problems but rather doing each day’s simple duty as it comes. He said, “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (Mt. 6:34). Most of us could stand to improve in this area. We need to learn that each day’s troubles are manageable if we will just focus on what needs to be done as each day passes.

But it is also helpful to think about something else: *each day God gives us opportunities to improve our lives*. Not only does each day have its difficulties, but each day has its hope. With the rising of the sun each morning, we are each given a fresh start, a clean slate to work with. If we look at “today” as we should, we will see many chances to make significant progress.

Many of our best opportunities are lost because of procrastination and postponement. Perhaps we assume there will be many more opportunities in the days and weeks ahead of us. But even if that’s true, we still need to take advantage of each day’s possibilities for growth and not waste these gifts from God. Time is a valuable commodity. We shouldn’t waste it.

Jesus Himself was always conscious of the importance of the present day. On one occasion, He said in regard to the work that He and His disciples were doing, “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4). Even with His omniscient understanding of the future, Jesus knew that each day’s opportunities must be taken advantage of.

This week, let’s be more mindful of what we can do each day. After all, the things that produce most of our spiritual growth are those that happen on ordinary days — not the great choices we make on momentous occasions, but the day-to-day decisions to do the good things we know to do. So let’s “seize the day” and do the little things that can move us ahead in our relationship with God. Not a day goes by that does not present us with things we can do that will help us grow. Let’s determine to look for these . . . and act on them!

Monday: Colossians 1:9,10

Key Idea: Every day we have a chance to increase our knowledge.

Questions for Family Growth: Why is knowledge so important? What does Col. 1:9,10 say about our need to increase in knowledge? What are some practical ways we can make this kind of growth a daily happening?

Wisdom for the Day: Proverbs 20:5.

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 2:21

Key Idea: Every day we have a chance to increase our skills.

Questions for Family Growth: What is the importance of preparation? What does **2 Tim. 2:21** say about our ability to engage in good works? What kind of goals should we be setting with respect to new skills in the Lord's work?

Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 20:6.**

Wednesday: Proverbs 17:10

Key Idea: Every day we have a chance to correct some of our mistakes.

Questions for Family Growth: What does this text teach about one of the differences between a wise person and a fool? Look also at **Prov. 26:11** and **27:22**. To avoid this characteristic of the fool, what should be our daily attitude toward the mistakes we've made?

Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 20:7.**

Thursday: Matthew 5:21-26

Key Idea: Every day we have a chance to do something about mending a broken relationship.

Questions for Family Growth: What are some reasons why it is dangerous to postpone the mending of broken relationships? What are some little things we can choose to do every day that will help bring about restoration and healing?

Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 20:8.**

Friday: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Key Idea: Every day we have a chance to make progress in acquiring better habits.

Questions for Family Growth: How would you define a "habit"? What is the relationship between our habits and our character? What does Peter say in **vv.10,11** about the importance of our character? What kind of advice would you give to someone trying to form better habits?

Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 20:9.**

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com