

## A Man & His Time

**Key Verse:** “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.” **Ezekiel 22:30**

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at things that don’t really matter.” – Francis Chan

### ❖ Are You Available to the Master?

**No one ever drifts to God, but away from Him...**

**Adrian Rogers**, “Drifting is easy to do. It’s slow, it’s gradual, and the farther you’re from the shore, the harder it is to tell that you’re drifting. Sometimes you don’t even realize what’s happening as you move farther and farther away. That’s how is easy it can be to get farther and farther from God.”

- Slow Down
  - Be ruthless to eliminate hurry from your life, as well as your family’s.
  - Speed kills joy.
- Slim Down
  - Examine some of the things you are doing and ask whether or not you were led of God.
  - Realize that your priority in life should be a relationship with Christ, not an agenda.
  - Michael LeBoef, “Devoting a little of yourself to everything means committing a great deal of yourself to nothing.”
- Sit Down
  - Learn to live in the present.
  - Most of us either live for tomorrow or live because of the past. Our focus is on the future or the past and we fail to enjoy the present... what God is doing right now.
- Look Around
  - It is not a sin to celebrate what God is doing in your life.
  - Enjoy the privilege of praise to and for the King. What blessing from God can you celebrate today?
- Plan In
  - If you don’t schedule your time, someone else will.
  - Only Christians who are able to plan rest and relationships into their schedule will be able to fulfill their calling.

**Morning and Nightly Rhythm: Get in the Bible. Pray. Mix in a devotional. Be consistent!**

“For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” **James 4:14**

“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” **Psalms 90:12**

### ❖ Are You Able to do the Work?

**Walt Emerson**, “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work” **2 Timothy 2:21**

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” **Philippians 2:12-13**

- Leaders don’t point the way, they lead the way.
- Real leadership is being the person that others will gladly and confidently follow.
- Leaders are always aware of those they are accountable to and those they are accountable for; especially while on the journey.
- Leaders bring energy.
- God didn’t make you a leader to respond to stuff all day, He made you a leader to move people.

**Are you allowing God, by the Holy Spirit within you, to change you and use you?**

❖ **Are You Willing to Change Daily to Keep Your Momentum?**

- The goal isn't to keep up with the changing world, the goal is to be standing there waiting on it when it arrives.
- **John Wooden, Things turn out best for people who make the best of how things turn out.**
- **Momentum in the Right Direction:**
  - Double-Mindedness → Focus
    - "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." **James 1:8**
  - The Past → The Future
    - "Losers yearn for the past and get stuck in it. Winners learn from the past and let go of it."
    - Most don't realize that the viability of their ideal tomorrow is based on what they do today. The difference between a dream and wishful thinking is what you're doing now.
  - Individualism → Teamwork
    - If you want to kill momentum, then insist on doing things by yourself. Momentum grows through team victories in which numerous people can claim to have played a role.
  - Lack of Interest and Enthusiasm → Passion
    - Passion energizes your talent and rubs off on those around you. If you have courage, then you will influence people based on your passionate convictions. If you lack courage, then you will only influence people to the extent of your comfort zone.
  - Dishonesty → Character
    - Character is the sum total of our everyday choices. It cannot be built overnight. A trustworthy leader has a much easier time generating momentum than a leader with a reputation of being manipulative and deceitful.
  - Indecision → Action
    - I am never overly impressed with idea people. Anyone who takes a long shower can come up with a good idea. I'm impressed with a person who has the tenacity and discipline to make ideas happen.
  - Unforgiveness → Forgiveness
  - Anger → Brokenness
    - "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." **Psalms 34:18**
    - Be broken for your own sin. Be broken for your neighbor's sin that you're called to love as yourself.
  - Pride → Humility
    - "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." **Matthew 11:29-30**
  - Childishness → Biblical Manhood
    - "When I became a man, I gave up childish ways." **1 Corinthians 13:11**
  - Disobedience → Obedience
  - Unbelief → Faith

**Who or what needs your leadership and energy (TIME) as a Man of God now until the end of the year?**

**Keep in mind, it's often not what needs your time, but WHO needs your time. Men initiate. Men pursue.**

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**Men who try to win the rat race often leave a trail of broken relationships. Because the best use of our time is figuring out not what needs our time, but who needs our time.**