

**July 15, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Ps. 118:24** *This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.* (NASB)

We have only been allotted a certain amount of time in this world. If you live to be 70, you will have 2,207,520,000 seconds in your life. Now that may seem like a lot, but it goes by so quickly. In fact, you will probably use about 120 of those seconds just reading this devotional. It's about time.

We should *be thankful* for the time we have been given. He has made the time and given the time. *Bara ex nihilo* - He created time out of nothing. And He created time for a purpose. God is a God of order and purpose. **Is. 14:24** *The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purpose, so it will happen."* (NIV)

We should *be careful* with the time we have been given. ***This is the day.*** This is in the present tense. I love this statement: *yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift, that's why it's called the present.* If time is lost, it cannot be regained. There are no 'time-outs' in life. *Time is God's gift to us; how we use it is our gift back to Him.*

Did you know that the LORD ordained this very day before creation? How valuable is that? If it was important enough for Him to make, how important should we make it? We should prioritize our time. **Mt. 6:33** *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (NIV) We must learn to say 'no' to the things that are not His priority. **James 4:14** *Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.* (NIV)

We should *be joyful* in our time. We can choose to be glad or sad. Even in struggles, we can rejoice because we know that He is in control. **James 1:2-3** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trial of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* (NIV) Since we only have a limited time, how can we waste it? God has set before us all this opportunity to know Him, to praise Him and to share Him.

**Dear LORD, this is the very day that You have made. Help us not to waste this time on selfish desires, but instead help us to honor You with every second that You give us today. You have called us and equipped us. Help us to go out with the joy that You give. In Jesus Name, Amen**