

From Pastor Ed: The 21 Day Wesley Challenge

This is day 13! You've made it to Friday!

Don't forget Daylight Savings Time returns this week! Set your clocks forward before going to bed this Saturday!

Make time to stay for 30 minutes following worship this Sunday. It's our OT session to discuss the questions from this week.

Day Thirteen Question Thirteen

How do I spend my spare time?

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A 2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics survey said that, on average, employed Americans age 25-54 with children sleep 7.7 hours a day. Of the remaining 16.3 hours, people in that group average 2.5 hours of leisure time, what we might assume Wesley meant by "spare time."

It is essential to determine where in your day you have spare time. You must also find what you should do with that time. This is not a time to answer emails you didn't get to during your hours of work! Wesley proposed this as a key question for Christians so that we can determine which activities help us be refreshed, renewed and refocused on the essential priorities of our lives.

- Wesley (and Jesus) both want to make sure that we are not wasting time that we could be using to strengthen our daily pursuit of becoming deeply committed Christians. What activities bring you the most enjoyment and make you feel the most refreshed and energized? How much of your spare time do you spend on these pursuits? If it's less than you would like, how can you restructure your time so that you are spending it in ways that bring you life?
- Make a spare time "map" of your week. For one week, record everything honestly, (for only your eyes). Be specific enough so that you can spot spare time patterns to help you evaluate your map. Use the calendar or notes functions on your phone to help you, or jot down notes in your desk calendar or portfolio, if that works best for you.

Prayer: God, may I use my spare time in way(s) that please you. Help me develop the consistent practices needed to use the time I have wisely. Amen.

Day 13 devotional 13: Time Well Spent (Thanks to Greg Laurie)

Let's say that your phone rings tomorrow morning, and it's a call from the manager of your bank. He tells you, "I received a very unusual call the other day. Someone who loves you very

much and is quite wealthy has given you a large sum of money. This anonymous donor will be depositing 86,400 cents into your account every single day."

"How's that again?" you ask.

"Every single day, this person will deposit 86,400 cents into your account."

Is that much money? you wonder at first. Then you get out your calculator and figure out that it amounts to \$864 every day. *That's pretty good*, you're thinking.

"But there is one condition," the banker continues. "You have to spend it every single day. You can't save it up. You can't add it to the next day's balance. Every day, you must spend that money. What is not spent will be taken away. This person will do this each and every day, but the condition is that you must spend the money."

So you go back to your calculator and figure out that \$864 times 7 equals \$6,048 per week. That amount, multiplied by 52, comes to \$314,496 per year. That's a pretty good deal. And that is also a fantasy.

So let's deal with reality. Someone who really does love you very much deposits into your bank of time 86,400 seconds every single day. That someone is God. And the condition is that you must spend it. You can't save up time today and apply it toward tomorrow—there's no such thing as a 27-hour day. Each and every day, you have the opportunity to invest your precious commodity of time.

The psalmist wrote "**Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life**" (Psalm 39:4).

I also like the way Paul wrote about this in Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV): "**Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**"

In what ways could you more effectively spend your spare time?