

**Weekly Prayer Strategy**  
**20 February – 26 February, 2017**

**This week's prayer points are based on the message *Repositioning Your Use of Time (Part 1)*  
by Paul Nyamuda**

**Prayer Point 1**

- **Pray that God helps you to be wise about how you use your time.**
- **Pray that God helps you to discover His will for your life so that you effectively manage your life purpose.**
- **Pray that the fear of the Lord returns in your life with regards to how you use your time.**
- **Pray that you are empowered to shape your day and every single moment as opposed to being constantly on the back foot.**
- **Pray that we begin to see our time as a gift.**
- **Pray that God helps us to use our time well instead of being bored because we are not clear about our purpose.**

**Ephesians 5:15 - 17**

*"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."*

The change for me has come in trying to see life in moments as opposed to many years at once. I am not just accountable for my life; I am accountable for each minute.

*"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."* - Michael Altshuler

Redeem your time means to reclaim, recover, retrieve, rescue and regain it. Elizabeth George, speaking of how we have to make the most of our time says *"We cannot manage time. We can only manage our self"*. Saying you are managing time is like trying to manage the air around you. You don't manage time but you can manage your use of time. In essence you are a steward of the time God has given you. It's important to see it as a gift from God of which you are a steward.

As we consider the importance of time management it is necessary to answer the question:

*"Do you really want to live out God's plan?"* Does your tombstone read died at 21 buried at 70 – Are you living or nearly existing? We cannot separate the discussion of time management from the discussion of purpose management. There is a well known story of that illustrates this:

*A lighthouse keeper, who worked on a rocky stretch of coastline, received his new supply of oil once a month to keep the light burning. Not being far from shore, he had frequent guests.*

*One night, a woman from the village begged him for some oil to keep her family warm. Another time, a father asked for some oil for his lamp to light his way back home. Another friend needed some oil to lubricate a squeaky wheel. Since all the requests seemed legitimate, the lighthouse keeper tried to please everyone and to grant all the requests that came across his path.*

*Toward the end of the month, he noticed that his supply of oil was very low. Soon, it was all gone and the beacon went out. That night several ships were wrecked and lives were lost. When the authorities investigated, the lighthouse keeper was very repentant. To his excuses and pleading, their reply was, "You were given oil for one purpose, to keep the light burning!"*

You've been given enough oil for a 24-hour day to fulfill God's purpose in your life. How much oil are you giving away to others trying to please them? If you don't focus your priorities and use your oil wisely, you may run out before you have completed your assigned tasks. It may be the difference between life and death for those divine appointments God has for you.

The unprepared person will always be at the mercy of the prepared person. Usually this person is unprepared because they are not conscious of the purpose of God in this season of their life; **so they become a floater**. They have no boundaries when it comes to extended social gatherings over the weekend. **The secret to greatness is hidden in your daily routine.**

## **Prayer Point 2**

- **Pray that your life purpose is seen in your daily routine.**
- **Pray for strength to obey God rather than try to meet every need around you.**
- **Pray for discernment and courage to do first things first rather than second things first.**

## **I. What is the nature of time?**

- A. Time is an unseen force.**
- B. Time is an equally distributed resource to everyone.**
- C. Time is constant.**
- D. Our perception of time differs.**
  1. Sometimes we don't feel we have enough of it.
  2. Sometimes we feel bored and have to "kill" time.
- E. We often give power to it.**

We do so by believing myths like "time heals all wounds".
- F. There are two major ways to look at time management.**
  1. Conventional time management (CTM)  
This consists of scheduling activities (what you do).
  2. Inner time management (ITM)

This consists of monitoring one's energy levels determining how one prioritizes activities (how you feel when you are doing what you do).

**G. The use of time determines our productivity.**

Correct use of time enables us to succeed in our efforts to be both efficient and effective.

1. Efficiency is doing things right - there is minimum wasted effort.
2. Effectiveness is doing the right things – gaining desired results.

The secret of successful people is that they shape things which others often see as uncontrollable. The purpose of this sermon is to highlight how it is possible to be in charge of your time and to shape its use. The skill necessary for this is personal management because we are going beyond the management of our time to the management of our values and priorities, which in turn determine the use of our time.

*Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of. One man gets only a week's value out of a year while another man gets a full year's value out of a week.*

Charles Richards

**Prayer Point 3**

- **Pray that you become more efficient in doing the right thing.**
- **Pray that God multiplies your time; what used to take you weeks is now only taking days.**
- **Pray that your inner time management improves. You want to start doing things at the right time of day. You want to do activities that suit your energy levels at that time of day.**
- **Pray that you start to see your life in moments, where Father God is glorified by your fruitfulness in each moment.**
- **Pray that instead of killing time or merely spending time we begin to INVEST time.**