

TAKE THE ADVANTAGE WHILE YOU CAN

15/4/12

The concept of making hay while the sun shines is also a scriptural principle, that relates to taking advantages while they are there. Many people hear the true gospel, but for one reason or another, don't respond, or put off the opportunity before them. Salvation will not always be available and perhaps of greater concern, the willingness to respond when the opportunity arises is most often missing. Thus there are two problems relating to every blessing God offers us. The first problem relates to identifying the blessing and the second, relates to being in the right frame of mind to act upon it. The bible seems to indicate that the second problem is greater than the first, especially for spirit filled people.

Jesus strongly emphasises the need to act while the blessing is obvious.

JOH 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. *Their opportunity was immediately before them... they had to act.*

This is a very strong appeal from the Lord to keep taking the advantage while you can still see it.

JOH 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. *The time to act is now!!*

36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. *Jesus revealed the same principle to Saul, who identified the truth and acted. His name was changed to Paul and he actually recorded the value of his moment of change. ACT 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*

Be in the right frame of mind so you can firstly identify and secondly, act upon the moving of the Spirit.

HEB 3:13 But exhort one another daily, **while it is called To day**; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. *You can't help anyone if you are tuned out from personal responsibility.*

God's timing is perfect... when he speaks, then it is time to act.

ECC 3:1 To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time **to plant**, and a time to **pluck up** (*reap*) *that which is planted*;

When exhortation comes, be ready to respond... without delay.

ROM 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to **awake out of sleep**: for now *is* our **salvation nearer than when we believed**. *A constant and credible observation for all people in all ages.*

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. *This is encouragement to see the advantages of walking in the spirit and to take them.*

God gives to us the same measure we give to him... our response will often determine the quality of life.

GAL 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

To conclude... we need to take the advantage while it is near... it will be soon gone.

ISA 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

It is a very difficult job to tell this generation that the return of the Lord is near, because they have been hearing it for nearly 2000 years. However, it should never be a difficult job to encourage the saints to take advantage of the opportunities while they still have the heart and mind to do so.