

**SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY**

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Galatians 6:10, “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith*.”

Illustration: Napoleon said that every battle is won or lost in a critical five-minute door of opportunity. He who goes through the door first wins.

Our pilgrimage here on earth is one of opportunity. I want to encourage all of you to seize this opportunity.

Do you want your church to begin a growth phase? Those who are ready to receive and serve will be rewarded. One way to grow is to strengthen and enlarge your “adult” Bible classes! These classes must be operated as a small church within a large church. Leaders must continually find some way to keep a small church atmosphere as they get bigger. They also must find a way to incorporate new leaders and give them a rewarding place to serve. You don’t have to use this particular method, but you do have to use this particular principle.

Some complain that large churches are too big for them to serve. They say all of the positions are filled with people who have been members for a long time. You must give them an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of the next phase of your church. This will give your church or ministry a forward-looking and expectant attitude.

If you will give people the opportunity to serve and build your ministry and influence others, you can grow as large as you are willing to take your ministry!

**I. The Privilege of Opportunity**

**A. Not all have opportunity**

1. Dead churches

2. Nations under repressive leadership

3. Evil dictator-driven congregations

4. Ignorant and uncommitted leadership

**B. Opportunity to do all you can**

1. Nothing in your way

2. Have all the help you want

3. All you need to do is take ownership

**C. America is a blessed nation**

1. Land of the free

2. We have liberty in Christ

II Corinthians 3:17, “*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*”

Galatians 5:1, “*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage*.”

3. How are you using your freedom?

4. Is your focus on yourself or do you use your liberty to help others?

I Corinthians 7:20-24, “*Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God*.”

5. You have an open door to make your life count. Make it count in a way larger than you can do alone.

I Corinthians 16:9, “*For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries*.”

II Corinthians 2:12, “*Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord*,”

Colossians 4:3, “*Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds*:”

**D. Leaders must lay the mantle of leadership at people’s feet**

1. Do you want your life to count? So do potential leaders!

2. What do people in your ministry want to do?

3. What are their gifts?

4. How can they help you? How can you help them?

5. They must be proven first, I Timothy 3:10

**E. You can do more together than you can do alone**

1. *Synergy*: result is greater than the sum of the parts – team effort

2. God wants us to multiply, not add

3. From the very beginning of creation until this present day God has desired for His people to multiply!

Genesis 1:28, “*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*”

Genesis 9:1, “*And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth*.”

Genesis 22:17, “*That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies*;

Jeremiah 30:19, “*And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small*.”

II Corinthians 9:10, “*Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)*”

Hebrews 6:14-15, “*Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.*”

**II. The Door of Opportunity Swings Both Ways**

**A. God is looking for people to step forward**

1. II Chronicles 16:9, “*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars*.”

2. Miss the opportunity God lays before you and He sends trouble in its place.

**B. Volunteer and begin**

1. Isaiah 6:8, “*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me*.”

2. Even small things are big with God. Psalms 84:10, “*For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness*.”

**C. We don’t have much time**

John 9:4, “*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work*...”

James 4:14, “*Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away*.”

Ephesians 5:16, “*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil*.”

Colossians 4:5, “*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time*.”

**III. How Do We Take Advantage of This Opportunity**

**A. Redeeming the time**

**B. Doing the work of the Father (John 9:4)**

**C. By allowing ourselves to be inconvenienced and suffer**

II Timothy 2:12, “*If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us*:”

Philippians 3:10, “*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death*;”

**D. The responsibility of leadership and the way we are to help others, Joshua 17:14-19** 1. Don’t give away anything

2. Make people self-supportive

3. Encourage

4. Enable

**IV. The Prize If We Use Our Opportunity**

**A. Judgment Seat of Christ**

Romans 14:10, “*But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ*.”

II Corinthians 5:10, “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*

Luke 19:24, “*And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds*.”

II John 1:8, “*Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward*.”

**B. The presence of Christ**

I Corinthians 1:9, “*God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord*.”

Ephesians 3:9-10, “*And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,”*

**V. The Spiritual Perspective of Our Opportunity**

**A. Don’t look at your service through fleshly eyes**

1. Position-based

2. Comparing ourselves among ourselves (II Cor. 10:12)

3. Low self-esteem

**B. Look through God’s Spirit**

1. God calls

2. God enables

3. God accomplishes through our flesh

4. Without you in your place, we are missing part of our body. The same applies to potential leaders. They are already in your ministry; use them and God will send more.

Colossians 2:19, “*And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.”*

5. Others will be affected – not fed and ministered to, not growing

**C. Christ called us to work**

Ephesians 2:10, “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*.”

Romans 8:28, “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose*.”

I Corinthians 1:9, “*God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

**D. We can do anything He has called us to do**

**I** Timothy 1:12, “*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry*;”

Philippians 4:13, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*.”

Matthew 28:18-19, “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*:”

**VI. Will You Seize the Opportunity?**

**A. Your door is now open**

**B. Will you go?**

**C. Reap rewards, not only now but in eternity**

**D. Will you get in on what God is doing**

Joshua 24:15 “*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD*, choose you this day whom ye will serve; *whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell*: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

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