



A Twenty-One Day Digital Devotional

Day Seven

The Stewardship of Yes

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. -Joshua 1:8

In yesterday's devotional, we looked at people-pleasing, busyness, procrastination and why it is so important to be able to say no. Today, we take practical steps regarding the stewardship of our time and saying yes. If we don't have a healthy relationship with yes, we're never going to be able to multiply and care for others in a way that honors God and avoids the trap of only pleasing man.

David Willis said, "Stewardship is the act of managing all that is entrusted to our care, both for ourselves and for those we are allowed to influence."

You may have heard of the time management tip: Plan your work and work your plan. If we don't manage our schedules other people will. In "Tyranny of the Urgent" Charles Hummel tell us to not let the trivial but urgent matters of life squeeze out the most important responsibilities. The spiritual disciplines are some of those important responsibilities, especially our Bible reading.

One of my favorite books was given to me right after I got saved. Donald Whitney's *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. I remember reading this passage:

If we traded our TV watching time for Bible reading time we would read through the Bible in one month. The average person watches 70 hours of TV each month. That's about how long it takes to read through the Bible. If you only

read 15 minutes per day, you would finish the Bible in a year. That's less time than the average American spends in front of the television every month. In other words, if most people would exchange their TV time for Scripture reading, they'd finish reading the entire Bible in four weeks or less. If that sounds unworkable, consider this: In no more than fifteen minutes a day you can read through the Bible in less than a year's time.

Now that's a yes I can get behind! A yes that can start our day and fuel the opportunities that God places before us to love and disciple others.

Lysa Terkeurst says it well in her book *Uninvited*:

Fullness comes to us when we remember to be with Him before going out to serve Him before our hands set about doing today's assignment for Him. Jesus doesn't participate in the rat race. He's into the slower rhythms of life like abiding, delighting, and dwelling...all words that require us to trust Him with our place and our pace.

Questions To Consider

Am I saying yes to my time with God?

Am I busy doing things that God hasn't asked me to do or carry burdens he hasn't called us to carry? - Jason Gerdes

Prayer Focus

Lord, give me a fresh desire to spend time with You. You're the One Who created me. You're the One who started the conversation with me. Restore in me a desire to read Your Word, talk to You and listen to Your voice. Take away any distractions that may prevent me from pursuing You. I want You more than anything. Help me be a good steward of what I say yes to so that I can be about Your business and not my busyness.

Written by David Stein