

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Look forward in faith,
All time is in God's hand.
Walk humbly with Him
And trust His future plan.
God has wisely led
His people by His power.
Look forward in hope,
He gives us *each* new hour.

It has been said that we manage time, waste time, spend time, and save time. We wish it would come... we wish it would pass... we see time fly... we feel it drag. We watch clocks and carry calendars... yet it is God who controls time. He created it, and all of His creations are fenced by His time, directed and guided by His loving Hand.

We humans are often surprised by unexpected developments, but God is never surprised by even the most disastrous turn of events. Our outlook on life changes dramatically when we know that at this very moment God is working within us to carry out His purpose. Consider how we'd live if we were absolutely certain that God was at the end of our deadline. That even if there were mere seconds left, we believed with certainty He was working through our circumstances. Believing God is there and is about to provide is the essence of faith.

In the thirteenth Chapter of the book of Hebrews we are told "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". Time cannot diminish His love or His power to work within our lives. He was there in the past; He's present in the 'now', and He'll be there in the future. The truth is He has literally "all the time in the world... a thousand years or a day, it's all the same to Him" (Psalm 90:4) And His ultimate goal is to bring us into eternity, not just to get us through to the end of the week. It's good to remind ourselves that in every situation "His power is at work within us to carry out His purpose, and to do superabundantly above all that we dare ask or think... beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes or dreams.

So, what should we do with this gift of time? Perhaps, until we know the difference between the urgent and the important, we'll never be really good stewards of our time.

The One who influenced our world the most, our Lord Jesus, was a man with a leisured heart. He was never hurried, never flurried, and never worried... unrelenting yet unhasting... but He always had time for the things that mattered. Life depends on elimination as well as assimilation. How do we find time for the things that matter? By 'planned neglect' – certain less important things may need to be deliberately neglected in order to carry out God's will. Perhaps we would do well to prioritise disciplining our time.

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So little time to say the things
You'd really like to say –
Before you even find the words,
The time just slips away.

So little time to do the things,
You feel that you must do,
So treasure, like the purest gold,
The time God's given you.

So little time to dream your dreams,
For youth has passed its prime,
And, all too soon, you realize,
That there's... so little time.

So little time to reach the heights,
To which you're bound to climb,
For swiftly pass the waning years,
And there's... so little time.

So little time to pass regrets,
And less, to make amends,
Yet God can heal the deepest wounds,
In chosen, cherished friends.

So little time to share God's love,
And beauty here on earth,
And know, before His endless time,
Their meaning and true worth.

Oh yes, there is so little time,
To seek the hidden door,
That opens up to Heaven's time,
Where time's forevermore.