

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR *Real Life*

96. How to Make the Most of Right Now

You are listening to episode 96 of the Encouragement for Real Life Podcast titled, "How to Make the Most of Right Now." Thank you for joining me here on the podcast today! Welcome! I had a realization the other day that became my focus for the last number of days, and I believe it's something we could use a reminder of every now and then. So, it's the perfect subject for the podcast today. If you're interested in embracing the moment and learning how to make the most of right now, then this one's for you. You might also want to share it with a friend who could use this encouragement as well. So without further delay, let's get to it.

Someone asked me the other day how old my mom was when she passed from this earth to her eternal home. She was 74. In that moment when I answered, I was reminded of my current age. I mentally subtracted it from my mom's, and a lump instantly formed in my throat. Now, I don't mean to be a downer here, but this got me thinking. I have no idea when the Lord will take me home, because none of us do. But say He calls me home at the same age He did my mother, and well, this reality wakes me up. This possibility motivates me to stop living this life as if I have all the time in the world. Because frankly, I don't!

You and I get one chance to live this life on earth, and friend, this is it!

We don't get a do-over, or the opportunity to begin life again. This life is the one we're given to live abundantly. In the way Jesus came to give us life. But not only that, what we do on earth matters into eternity. How we live today and what we do with the gifts God has given us make a difference now and later.

Have you thought about this at all recently? Because sometimes I believe we need a reminder of our mortality every now and then. We need to remember that we're not guaranteed tomorrow or the next minute.

The reality is you have no idea where your life will take you tomorrow. You are like a mist that appears one moment and then vanishes another. James 4:14 VOICE

We need to understand how important what we do and how we live are. Because I understand how easy it is to slide into what's comfortable. And to just live life on auto-pilot. And to even maybe find ourselves sleepwalking through life. Sometimes we just don't realize what we are doing and how we are living. So, let's ponder all of this today. Let's pause and think about what will we do with the time we have left on this earth.

How are we living these lives of ours? Are we living every day in the fullest form of God's grace? Are we making the most of every day and making a difference in this world? Do we step out of what's comfortable to follow what God is calling us to do? Or are we playing it safe? Are we too fearful or unsure about living in a way or stepping out in faith that's beyond what we know? Are we concerned

more about the "what ifs" than God's gifts? And are we living distracted, missing this life we're blessed to live?

These are some of the questions I'm asking myself this week, and I invite you to answer them, too.

Because this matters. Our lives matter. What we do with our lives matter. Right now matters.

We can choose to make the most of right now, or not.

We can choose to get busy doing what God has called us to do, or not.

You and I can choose to embrace this moment and make the most of right now, or not.

Ever since I had this sort of wake up call, I guess you could call it, I've been looking at my life a little more pointedly. I've been taking a few more chances. I've been willing to do some really hard things. My husband and I have been dating each other more and doing spontaneous, out-of-the-box type of things. Like going to the local races over the weekend (we hadn't done that in a very long while) and riding a full moon bicycle ride the other night until very late with our biking friends. I'm discerning what's really important (what matters for eternity) and what's not important (what's only temporary), and I'm making choices to follow that.

Because I want my life to matter for something. I want it to matter for Jesus. I want to do all Jesus wants me to do, to live the life He desires me to live. To be the person God created me to be. And none of that is easy or comfortable or maybe not even popular. But this is reality. I may only have 20 years (or more or less) on this earth. What I do with my time left matters.

I want to make the most of right now.

But how? How do we do that when our circumstances may not be perfect? Or we've found ourselves slipping into a comfortable, easy life? How do we make changes that will impact not only our lives, but the lives of those around us. Maybe even this world?

Friend, to make the most of right now, we have to begin with right now.

This moment. This moment right here matters. Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but right now. It's the only time we have. The past is behind us and the future isn't here yet. God meets us here. Now. To not live distracted or preoccupied or wishing we were somewhere else or with someone else. We accept life right now, and trust our futures into God's hands.

The second thing follows that. To seek God for His will for our lives. Because He has good plans for them.

God, what do You want me to do today? What do You have for me right now? What can I do to serve You and others today? How can I make a difference for You in my life right now? What are You teaching me? What are You asking me to do? How are You leading me? Where are You guiding me to? What can I do today that would glorify You?

When we seek God's will for our lives and for this moment, He will guide us. His best is what's best for us right now. His plans and purposes are best for our lives right now.

This is how we make the most of right now.

We begin with now and we seek God's will. And the third thing we do is follow through. Whatever God calls us to do, whatever direction He points us in, whatever steps He guides us to take, we do, we go, we take that step. Because if He's calling us to do it, He will lead us through it. Period. He's not going to make us do what He asks us to do on our own. He will guide and equip and strengthen us as we trust Him along the way.

God knows what He's doing. He's got it all figured out. We simply start with right now, seek His will, and follow through.

All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, for there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end. John 9:4 TLB

You and I have one chance to live today, to live this moment.

Let's make it count.

Before we close out this episode, I must say this. Now, when the reality smacked me in the face of how much time I may have or may not have left on this earth that day, I got motivated yes. I got fired up and inspired to get off my duff and make a difference in this world for Jesus. But yet I was also comforted. Because whenever my time is up on this earth, I know where I'm going. I understand where I will spend eternity. With Jesus. And that motivates me even more. To do the things He calls me to do so when I do see Him face to face some day, I will hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." So, I'm comforted knowing where I'm going.

To make the most of right now also means we're making the most now of where we're going. If you're not sure where your future lies, I invite you to message me directly at the link in the show notes, and we'll chat about that. Eternal hope allows us to make the most of right now.

I invite you to join the conversation we're having over in our private Encouragement for Real Life Community on Facebook. We're talking about making the most of right now over there this week. You'll find the link to this fun group in the show notes.

Also, if you found encouragement and hope in this episode, would you please consider rating it and/or reviewing it so others can find this encouragement too? Subscribe to the podcast so you never miss a new episode.

You and I can't begin to guess how long we'll be here on this earth, but what we can do is make the most of the time we're given. To make the most of today. To make the most of right now. Because this matters. I'm cheering you on today and praying for you. God bless you!

Links in this episode:

[John 9:4 TLB](#)

[James 4:14 VOICE](#)

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