

Priorities of Faith

DAY 1 — LESS BUSY IS MORE BLESSING

“Be very careful how you live. Do not live like people who are not wise. Live like people who are wise. Make the best use of your time because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:15, 16)

Is More Truly More?

Our lives are filled with many things we want to have and do. In a world that is focused on buying and selling, we are easily tempted to believe that the more we have, the more happy we are. Because of the tempting advertisements all around us, we wrongly want to have everything. Sometimes, this thinking affects how we work for God. We want to serve God, but at the same time, we do not want to miss out on anything. And so we try to balance our desire to serve God and our goal to get more and more things. This makes us very busy. In our busy hurry, we fool ourselves to believe that we can follow God without letting go of everything else that wants our attention. When we use this wrong thinking to our relationship with God, we are deceived [tricked].

Be Willing to Let Go

We cannot have it all—we cannot have both the world’s tempting pleasures and the blessings of God. To think we can have both is a dangerous mistake. This way of thinking (wanting it all) hurts our minds and causes disaster in our spiritual lives. We cannot have a relationship with God without making time for Him in our busy lives. We need to be willing to live with *less* to experience the blessings of things that are *more* important. We need to let go of the things that take our focus away from God and take too much of our physical, mental and spiritual energy. When we try to do too many things at the same time (with busy schedules, going faster, longer to-do lists) we become physically and spiritually tired.

Live With Less

Is your busy life stopping you from fully living for God? Busy lives leave little time for God, the Creator of the universe. We need to understand that being less busy is more of a blessing. We cannot experience more spiritual blessings (for example more prayer time), if we only try to add it to our already full schedule. Being too busy only makes us feel more empty. We must decide to live with less things and be less busy so we can enjoy more of what is important to God. Less is more!

Let’s pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

All prayer groups have different ways of praying together. We want you to spend the next 30-45 minutes praying together, however the Holy Spirit leads you. Short informal prayers (1-3 sentences) are good. This way, more people can pray many times. Below are some examples of praying with Bible verses based on the theme. You may also pray through other Bible verses and include other topics in your prayer time. See the Leader's Guide and World Church Prayer Requests for other prayer ideas.

Praying God's Word — Ephesians 5:15, 16

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"Be very careful how you live. Do not live like people who are not wise. Live like people who are wise."

God, when we are broken, we look for Your grace and help. We have filled our lives with too many activities and distractions. We need a change, a cleansing, and to put the things that are truly important first. Teach us how to live with less so we can focus on what is most important. We want to be wise with wisdom from above. Guide us, we pray. Amen.

"Make the Best Use of the Time"

Dear Jesus, Your timing is always perfect. You know what needs to be said and done at each time in history. Thank You for Your perfect ministry to this world. Please teach us how we can make the best use of our time for You, especially now in the last days. Show us where we waste our time and give us victory over the things we know are taking up too much time in our lives. Amen.

"Because the Days Are Evil"

God, we know that the world will end very soon. The signs are all around us, but sometimes we get so distracted busy, or fooled that we forget that we are close to eternity with You. Help us to fully commit to You and the ministry You want each of us to do. Change our lives to better follow Your will. Amen.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to give wisdom for today's challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for local and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Fill My Cup, Lord (#493); We Would See Jesus (#494); Take Time to Be Holy (#500)

Other Songs: Change My Heart, O God; Seek Ye First; Into My Heart

ASL Song: "Not I, but Christ" ([3ADM Video Library](https://vimeo.com/459084255) — <https://vimeo.com/459084255>)