

IF I HAD BUT ONE YEAR TO LIVE

Psalms 90:12 *"Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*

Introduction: Suppose that the first half of that prayer were to have literal fulfillment for me, and I were to learn positively that I had but one year to live - the number of my days were to be 365, no more, and at the end of that time my earthly life were to reach a sure and sudden termination in death.

What could I do to bring the answer to the rest of the prayer? What wisdom should guide me through those last precious days? What should I do with the remaining days? What would you do?

What plan of action? What should occupy my interests and my time?

I. LOOK AT THE REALITIES - THE FACTS

1. I would stop taking for "granted" that this or that will come out alright like it always has.

- I would want to know for sure that I was right with God - that my sins were forgiven - that I have indeed been born again and that I was going to go to heaven.

2. I would get my priorities straight. What was really important? What really mattered?

- If I was going to be facing almighty God in a year, I would want to get to know Him as well as I could and to be with Him down here as much as I could.

3. I would give to God completely this last year of my life.

- He has not gotten all of my life through these years, just some here and now, bits and pieces.
- Reflecting back on my life I see so much that I never gave to God, I used it for myself or for my family, but it belonged to Him.
- If I could go back and redo my past, I'd change all of that but since I can't, then I'd make sure that what time I had left I'd give it all to God.

4. I would try not to be too shocked at having only one year left to live.

- I've buried hundreds of people through the years of being a pastor and I always told those there that all of us are born with a certain number of days to live.
- I'd have to remember that God also gave to me only so many days to live. I've buried many friends and family members, now it is my time to follow them into eternity.

5. I think I would try to make things right with everyone I could remember that I have felt bad about through the years.

- I'd send a letter, make a call, go see them if possible, but I'd do everything I could to make peace with those I've been at odds with, that I could remember.
- I don't think that I would want to face God with unforgiveness in my heart if I am expecting forgiveness from Him.

6. I would stop relying on anybody or anything but God.

- All through my life I seemed to want someone else's opinion about something before I went to God about it. He was usually the last One and then only when everybody and everything else didn't work or was wrong.

- I think I'd just go to the Bible and see what God has already said about this or that and just leave it at that.

II. LEAVE THE WORLD ALONE

1. I would stop trying to be like everybody else.

- I think God has already made up His mind about me and how/what He wants me to live and to have.
- I think I would just leave it as God wants it and stop trying to change God's plans for my life.

2. I would learn how to recognize God's voice, His presence and to shut out the noise of the world so that I could live every day completely and totally aware of God's presence.

3. I would stop wanting this and that and spend what God has blessed me with on what God wants me to use it for.

- Through my years God was not always the first one I thought about when I spent my money.
- Seems I forgot often that it was God who enabled me to have what I called "mine" and failed to give him the credit and thank Him for it. I think I would like to remedy that.

4. I would do things with my family and friends that I should have done long ago, but never got around to doing it - I was always too busy doing something else.

- Being a pastor seemed to keep me from being with my family so much of the time, I was busy doing "the Lord's work.." when actually it was "busy" work and wasn't the Lord's idea in the first place.
- I would apply the truth that the Lord comes first in my life, but my family comes next..MY family, not everybody else's.

5. I would stop noticing what everybody does that is wrong - finding fault.

- All my life I have always noticed how different everyone else was from me, how wrong they were as they did this or said that, always comparing them with ME.
- There is no reason for being that way, especially with only one year to live, so there's sense in continuing that selfish habit. Never did me any good anyhow in God's eyes.

6. I would FINALLY stop worrying.

- Very little, if anything I spent time worrying about ever happened like I thought it might. I spent many night hours tossing and turning, worrying about this or that, how I would do or not do whatever. All those hours were wasted on empty worries.
- I would leave things entirely in the hands of God - finally - as I should have years ago.

III. THANKFUL

1. I would spend that last year thanking God and singing to Him and telling about Him.

2. I would spend that last year remembering all that God had done for me through my life.

Now this is what I would do. What would you do?