

IF YOU HAD BUT ONE YEAR TO LIVE

Psalm 90:12 39:3

Introduction: Everyday somebody gets bad news from their doctor. You have this or that, you need surgery, you need to have some tests done, you need to start taking such and such medication but the worst news that a person can hear is that "you have only a year to live." What kind of thoughts rush through a person's mind upon hearing "you have only a year to live?" What does a person do? Who does a person turn to?

I. THE REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS SUDDENLY SURFACE

1. With eternity looming so closely and so soon, making sure that all is well between you and God would be the wisest and first thing to be done.
 - Make sure that your profession of faith has been sincere.
 - Make sure that you have truly been born again and Jesus is indeed your Savior.
 - Make sure that all your sins are forgiven.
2. With only a year left, it would be wise to spend it learning as much about God as possible as well as doing whatever it took to stay in God's presence continually.
3. Giving the last year of your life totally, completely to God would be a wise thing to do.
 - In all probability God hasn't gotten all that much from you through the years anyhow.
 - Reliving the past and redoing some things or doing some things for the first time is impossible, but what time you have left can be spent as your past should have been.
4. The truth suddenly is realized that you had a certain number of days to live from the day you were born and those days are about up.
 - This is true for everybody, you are no exception. It's coming up your turn to die.
5. Making things right with those you have felt bad about through the years would be good.
 - Make a visit, send a letter, telephone, or take something back.
 - Do whatever you can to make have peace with anyone offended or hurt by you or that hurt you.
6. You won't be needing anybody else's opinion now but God's.
 - All through your lifetime God was not the first one you consulted when you needed help or to talk to someone. Now would be a good time to make Him **first**.
 - Spend all the time you can getting close to God, read His Word, talk to Him, learn to trust Him for everything as you will be standing before Him shortly.

II. WHAT THE WORLD THINKS OF YOU IS NOT IMPORTANT ANY LONGER

1. All your life you have tried to impress those around you so they would like you.
 - You don't have to do that anymore as it's not them whom you will be standing before in a very short while, it will be Almighty God.
2. The world had your attention all your life and God was somewhere around but seldom in the center of your attention.
 - Learn how to recognize God's constant presence and give Him your constant attention.
3. You can stop wanting things now and spend what you have left on Godly things.
 - All your material things will be left here when you die and like everyone else you have spent about every cent on things of the world.
 - Find some Godly things to invest in.
4. Do things with your family and friends that you only talked about doing "someday" but never did.
 - Things of the world took you away from family and friends most of your life. Spend this last year with your family and friends, doing what you always talked about.
5. You don't need to be bothered by the faults of others anymore.
 - All through your life you were constantly comparing yourself to others, judging, criticizing, condemning, looking for faults in others.
 - There is no reason to do that anymore for the days you have left are too few to waste on such trivial unimportant matters. Remember, it will be God, not them you will be standing before.
6. You can now **stop worrying**.
 - Very little you ever worried about throughout your life ever became reality anyhow.
 - Bury all those things you once worried about, forget about them, they won't matter anymore ever.

III. TRY SOMETHING NEW - PRAISE GOD !

1. You never spent too much time praising God before, now spend your last year doing so.
2. Catch up on thanking all those who have treated you with kindness.
3. Learn how to look forward to that great day when you will finally leave here and go to the place God has prepared for you.

CONCLUSION

1. You don't have to wait till you only have one year left to life to do these things.
2. It would be good if all of us would live as if this was our last year down here on earth.