

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, March 27, 2011 – Pastor George Dupree

Acts 13:36 David served God's purposes in his own time, and then he died, was buried with his ancestors

Today I want to encourage you to serve God's purposes, in your lifetime. If you do that you'll have far fewer regrets about your life.

You'll have various regrets in your life. Some will be regrets for things you did. Others will be regrets for things you didn't do.

† We have left undone those things, which we ought to have done; and we have done those things, which we ought not to have done.

— *American Book of Common Prayer*

Two Cornell sociologists, Thomas Gilovich and Victoria Medvec, have done a study that concluded that over the short term we will have more regrets for things we've done, however, over the long term we have more regrets over the things we didn't do. They said that during the average week regrets over things we have done would outnumber things we haven't done 53% to 47%. But when people look at their lives as a whole regrets over things we didn't do will outnumber things we did do by 84% to 16%.

After Jesus fed the 5000 with a few loaves and fish, the Apostle Peter was given an opportunity – imagine what it was like that early morning after the tremendous miracle.

† Matthew 14:25 A little while before morning, Jesus came walking on the water toward his disciples. 26 When they saw him, they thought he was a ghost. They were terrified and started screaming. 27 At once, Jesus said to them, "Don't worry! I am Jesus. Don't be afraid." 28 Peter replied, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come on!" Jesus said. Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward him. 30 But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. 31 Right away, Jesus reached out his hand. He helped Peter up and said, "You surely don't have much faith. Why do you doubt?" 32 When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind died down. 33 The men in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "You really are the Son of God!"

The only way to guarantee no failure is to never try anything.

† Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT) If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

† Ecclesiastes 11:4 (AMP) He who observes the wind [and waits for all conditions to be favorable] will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

We know that at this church God is telling us to build again. The new building will cost more than we are comfortable with.

On September 25, 2002 The Prophetic Words were given to me with regard to our building expansion.

... even as you've preached many times about as Peter stepped out of the boat and as God called him to walk upon the water and yet then as the storm arose and the tempest arose, My son, there is going to come a tempest, and as you step out of the boat, a storm is going to come, but it will not overtake you.

... about the time to move... Do not be afraid, do not be concerned, because I am going to give you the ability to hear the sound in the tree, but when you hear the sound, you must move, My son. You must move. Get your ear ready. Get your ear ready for when the sound comes, when you hear the sound in the tree, you must move then. Get ready. Do not be afraid of knowing when to go because you will hear the sound. I am going to give you the ear to hear the sound. Do not be swayed. Do not be pushed. Do not be pulled or held back, but when you hear the sound just as My servant David, when he heard the sound it was time to go up and fight the battle. You must be ready for when you hear the sound you must go. You must do it.

... and when you are ready I will tap you on the shoulder and I will tell you. I will tell you and there will be those that will follow after you

At Living Water, God is telling us to do bigger things than we feel safe and comfortable in doing. But that is what faith in God is all about; faith is the evidence of things not seen. People can't see the love and devotion that is in our heart for God. But they can see the evidence of what's inside when we do things for Him that go beyond our comfort zone. But remember, the things He's calling us to do are according to our own abilities, just like the people in the story we just read.

It's Time For Us To Step Out Once Again In Faith, Step Out Of The Boat And Walk On His Word, Peter did it and he walked on the water!

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT) If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

We just have to be like David and serve the purposes of God in our lifetime.