

Greetings!

I discovered recently that I had an infection! I was told it was not fatal but, it could develop into something more serious if not treated ASAP. I'm not exactly sure where I contracted it; however, it seems to be going around as I've observed several other people with the infection.

Please keep me in your prayers for a complete healing and total recovery from all the symptoms.

Thank you!

Tomorrowitis

During a twenty minute drive from school to home, how many times can a six year old say, "I wish it was tomorrow."? If you are the driver of the vehicle, the answer is more times than you care to hear.

Devin's school was having a "Run for Education Day" on Friday to raise funds for the school. He had his sponsors lined up and now it was just a matter of running enough laps around the course to help his school. Since Devin loves to run, he could barely contain his anticipation for the big day. However, it was Thursday and he had one more night to wait!

Every couple of minutes I heard, "I can't wait until tomorrow." "I wish it was tomorrow." "I want tomorrow to hurry up and get here." UGH! Losing my patience, I turned and exhorted the little fellow with, "Why don't you just make the best of today. Tomorrow will get here soon enough and if you're not careful you're going to miss something big today."

Feeling satisfied that I had shut the floodgate to "tomorrow", I heard that inner voice we call God saying, "When are you going to let go of tomorrow and make the best of today?" I was tempted to advise Him that He was interfering with a very important conversation between me and my grandson, but I knew better. This was when I realized, like Devin, I had "tomorrowitis"! I can't say when or where I contracted it but, I'm definitely infected.

So, how do you know when you're infected?

You *daydream* about it.

You discover that you went through the day *without* feeling that it was a very important day.

You find yourself growing impatient with the *current events of today*.

People keep telling you to *be patient*.

The number one symptom – you *keep talking about TOMORROW!*

I'm dealing with my *tomorrowitis* fairly well. I've realized that if I am to get better, it's up to me. So, I'm taking steps.

Every day we must deal with our past, work with the present and shoot for the future. So, how do we do it? The Bible has some interesting slants on *yesterday, today and tomorrow*.

Yesterday: The word, or concept, of remembering comes up often in Scripture. Though I've been told that it is not good to look back on our past, the Bible disagrees with that statement. It is not the looking back, but the reason why we remember our past that is important. It becomes a hindrance to our growth when we wallow in our pity, seethe in our anger, or live in our denial and allow these emotions to define who we are today. I've often said, "What you *think* about your *yesterday* will determine more about your *tomorrow* than what you think about your *today*." The writer of Revelation tells us twice to "remember from where we have fallen and repent (literally change direction)." If we're willing to be honest about the past, looking back gives us the opportunity to make the necessary corrections for our *tomorrow*.

Tomorrow: Proverbs 27:1 teaches us not to brag about tomorrow since we don't know what it will bring and James picks up the same thought in 4:14. Throughout the Scriptures, especially in Proverbs, we are taught to plan for our future and, yet, we are cautioned about taking an undue confidence in it. In chapter four, James deals several times with the arrogance of those to whom he is writing. He ends his final thought on bragging about tomorrow with this, "But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." The receivers of James' warning had come to a place where they had ceased to do what was good and necessary each day, bragging on what they would do tomorrow. He said that was sin!

Today: I remember hearing these words, "The opportunity of a lifetime, must be seized in the lifetime of that opportunity." What presents itself to me *today* may be gone *tomorrow*.

When I was a young pastor driving to my office, I drove past the house of one of our church members when I felt that inner voice telling me to stop and visit her. I argued within myself that I was in a hurry and had some things that needed doing. That evening I received a phone call informing me her family had admitted her into the hospital just hours after my passing her house. I promised a visit first thing the next morning, wishing that I had taken the time to stop by that afternoon. Before arriving at the hospital the next morning, I received another phone call letting me know she had passed away during the night hours. Days later I preached her

funeral, wondering what the outcome would have been had I taken the opportunity when it existed.

Today will last only for today. Once it has passed, the time is lost to eternity. As I grow older I look back and see too many opportunities that were lost because I failed to see them for what they were – opportunities; moments for advancement.

While it is a fool who would not plan for tomorrow, it is also a fool who would waste today dreaming about its getting here.

And that's just a thought . . .

My Final Word

Several years ago, a movie made popular to our generation the phrase “carpe diem” – “seize the day” from a Latin poem by Horace. Horace uses the word “carpe” to mean: “enjoy, make use of”, whereas the Latin means to: “pick, pluck”, or “to gather”. Our generation then rephrased it this way, “Live in the moment.” While “living in the moment” was not always a good thing for us to do, the concept is very Biblical.

Though there is nothing wrong with looking forward with excitement to what is coming (weddings, graduation, moving into a new home), I believe, like James, that it is wrong to ignore today while bragging of tomorrow. I have met too many people who live in their past, or in the dreams of their future, all the while losing out on today. It is a parent who realizes “they grew up so fast”, a husband and wife settling into retirement as strangers in their relationship, the worker who wishes they had paid more attention to the teachers during their school days. Life is filled with people wanting a chance to recover time they have lost, but are living instead with their regrets.

Devin will have many tomorrows to come during his lifetime; somewhere along the way I hope to teach him about his todays.

Planning for tomorrow while seizing today,

Chris

