



Watchman Prayer Alert

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. – Isaiah 62:6

What's Your 10 Year Plan for the Kingdom?

“What is your personal plan for impacting the Kingdom in the next 10 years?” my son asked me this week. I fumbled with an answer at the moment, but the question has haunted me all week. Life is short, and we are a transient society. If we are going to make any impact on this planet in the few years we are given, we must live intentionally and with purpose. As we face a change in circumstances, it's a good time to ask the question of ourselves again. What is the purpose of my life and how will I fulfill that goal in the next 10 years, if God leaves me here that long?

To answer this question for yourself, you'll need to do what we did. First, take stock. What do you have as resources right now that could be invested in the Kingdom? We have two incomes and no children at home, so we have more material resources which could support ministry. We have a home which God can use. We have time.

Second, examine your gifts. What talents do you have? Are you a people magnet? Are you a motivator? Are you happy serving in the background? Do you sing? Are you creative? Do you like numbers? Do you love gardening or woodworking?

Finally, decide how to use your resources and your gifts to advance the cause of Christ. My children will attest that a common montra of mine was, “You can do anything, but you can't do everything.” In this life, we are forced to choose. If we try to take advantage of every opportunity, in the end we'll find that we are ineffective. On the other hand, if we can narrow our focus to the handful of interests that really drive us, we will accomplish the plan of our lives.



Looking Back

Where were you 10 years ago in 2008? What was happening in your life then? Our oldest graduated from college and our youngest graduated from high school, we faced empty nest, and I reentered the workforce full time. Since then, we've had two weddings and added five grandchildren and a foster grandchild to the family. We moved into the country and built a new home. I now wear reading glasses and my knees are a little more creaky. Still, 2008 doesn't seem like that long ago. Looking backwards, 10 years goes by so quickly. Looking forward, that same 10 years seems like a whole lot more time. The caution here is that dates on the calendar are always closer than they appear.

Exercise

Take a few moments for an exercise before we look to the Word. Considering your resources and your talents, quickly jot down what your Kingdom impact will be in the next 10 years. Don't overthink it. Off the top of your head, where would you like

to focus? What's your passion? There is probably something already in your heart or maybe even something you are already involved in.

Impacting Generations

Moses was a great man of God. He lived an intentional life. He was the law giver who made God's word known to His people. Moses taught his people and he is still revered by Christians and Jews. Imagine that kind of legacy; he affected generations. Because of that, I love to examine his philosophy of life.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) I am convinced that the biggest part of living on purpose is understanding our brevity. We live with the end in mind, knowing that we have a finite number of days and limited resources. When we comprehend that we are immortal, but our life on earth is limited, then we can begin to fulfill our short term mission here.

Only God can tell you what your calling is, but for most of us we are instinctively drawn to that mission. It is etched on our hearts. It is what we are passionate about. It is what we spend our time thinking (or dreaming) about. It is what makes our eyes sparkle or blaze when we talk about it.

The trouble is that we are prone to distraction. All the other cares of life seem to get in the way of that one thing. Frequently we must say "no" to something so we can do what we really need to be doing.

The Next Generation

Once I wrestle with the fact that my days are numbered, then I am forced to a single conclusion. If I am going to live an effective life, then I absolutely must affect the next generation. There is no other way.

David, our hero who also affected generations, wrote: *"O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wonderous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come."* (Psalm 71:17)

**Teach me
to number
my days so
that I may
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of wisdom.**

- Psalm 90:12

Like David, I also loved Jesus as a teenager. Sometimes I still feel like that child learning to trust God. Even now as I get a few more years on me and my gray hairs start to emerge, I believe that my God is infinitely capable of accomplishing His plan. He is able, and He is good. Like David, I beg God to let me declare His glory to this new generation. In our own way, I believe that is the calling for every one of us. You are responsible to the extent of your influence. The way you declare the glory of God to this generation may be different than I do it, but within the realm of your influence, you will also testify to the nature of God.

Personally Speaking

For me personally, I was not built to climb mountains or run marathons. I will never be a Bill Gates or Elon Musk. I have no drive to amass wealth or conquer worlds. I will not cure cancer or build a better mousetrap. I will not be a famous singer or a TV personality. However, God gave me two beautiful children who each have amazingly gifted spouses, and He has given me grandchildren. That is my focus and my passion. Lord, do not forsake me till I impress upon them the magnitude of your glory and grace! If I ever impact the world, it will be because I invested heavily into the lives of my offspring.

I believe that life philosophy is not taught. It is caught. You cannot just tell people about your beliefs, they must see them lived out. This means, I need to walk out life with my children and grandchildren so they can see how my faith impacts my living. That means I actually have to spend time with them, lots of time. For example, to teach grandchildren to be generous, I have to model extravagant giving. To teach respect for nature, I must demonstrate how I love nature. I can take them hiking, study the stars together or let them help me plant a garden. I can take them to church with me and give them opportunities to worship. Each new adventure with them allows me the opportunity to open a new God conversation that can impact eternity.

The investments Mark and I make in our grown children are little different than the ones for our younger children. They still require the time it takes to maintain a relationship, but it looks different now. It means that we watch their children so they can have a date night each week. Or, we are intentional to plan trips to visit with our children. We verbally affirm them as they take on their mantles of ministry. We tangibly invest in the ministry work they are building.

Your Kingdom Impact

You may impact the world through your church activities, through business, through great organizations or even through government. God wires each of us differently, but working together with a Kingdom focus, we can reach the next generation with a message of hope and love. As you examine what drives you, consider how your own passions can be used for the Kingdom.

Are you involved in business? Then, operate under biblical standards of integrity when dealing with employees and customers. Let your life theology be born out in the conduct of your business.

Are you involved in government? Then use your voice to speak up for the helpless, empower the broken and lead us according to biblical standards.

Is God calling you to teach about parenting, biblical stewardship or healthy marriages? Is He stirring

up ideas within you about starting a ministry to the homeless or the single moms or the prisons? Are you drawn to the news from a certain faraway place? Maybe God has a special ministry that He wants you to be involved in or even to start.

Look back at what you wrote down a few minutes ago. It is very likely that God wants you to pray through this one to determine exactly how you will impact the Kingdom in this one area.

“We will not conceal them [the dark sayings of old which our father told us] from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” (Psalm 78:4) Together we will demonstrate the love of God to our generation and the next.

Wake Up Call

For me, this simple question was a wake up call. What is your personal plan for impacting the Kingdom in the next 10 years?

My personal plan to affect the Kingdom in the next ten years is to invest my free time in the lives of my grandchildren, using my hobbies like gardening and crafts to teach them to love Jesus and people and live effectively in our changing world. My husband and I plan to invest in the ministries our grown children and their spouses take on. That may involve financial investments, but it is more likely to involve taking on support roles in the background for those ministries. And, I plan to invest my time in helping my mother publish the Kingdom books she has yet to write.

Where will we be in ten years? Only God knows. In 2008, I never would have guessed I would be happily living in the country and enjoying six grandchildren. Will you take time to ask yourself the big question? Will you develop a personal plan for Kingdom impact? Will you start taking steps right now to implement that plan. God has a big Kingdom vision for you. Will you live a focused, effective life?

There can be no greater reward than to walk through those pearly gates and hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master.”

