

# Surrendering to God – Part 6

## Surrendering your Time



### How are you using the time God has given you?

Time is the heritage of every person. Whether a king or street sweeper, an astronomer or truck driver, a business tycoon or grocery clerk, each of us has same number of hours.

Many necessities and opportunities demand much of our day. Our work takes up a large percentage of our life. Being a good husband or wife, father or mother, employer or employee requires time.

As Christians, we have spiritual priorities as well. How many hours or days in a month should we set aside for evangelism and discipleship and the ministries of our church? What about caring for the poor, the orphans, and widows as God's Word commands (James 1:27; Galatians 2:10)?

With all these tasks competing for our time, how can we balance our responsibilities to fulfill our temporary and spiritual duties? As a good steward, you must manage your time wisely. Let me suggest a way to accomplish this task that Christians seldom consider today- *tithing your time*.

Tithing reflects a thankful, obedient attitude and acknowledges God as the source and owner of all that we possess. A voluntary act of worship, tithing teaches us to put God first. A faithful steward serves because he has such a heart for God. As we have seen, everything we have is a gift from God. Every second of every minute, every minute of every hour, twenty-four hours a day belong to Him Although God's Word does not specifically require us to tithe our time, our Lord did command us to put Him first in all things (Matthew 6:31-33). Giving back a percentage of our time enables us to give God priority and assures that we will fulfill our service to Him.

### A simple activity...

- On the sheet handed to you shade in the hours in a week devoted to the following, enter the hours and calculate the total hours free left over during the week.

	Hours /week		Hours /week
• Sleep/Rest (eg. 7hrs/day x7=49 hrs/week)		• Prayer Time	
• Washing/Bathing/Grooming		• Devotional Life (Reading and reflecting)	
• Eating (B/F, Lunch, Dinner)		• Church/Bible Studies	
• Work/College/Uni		• Christian Service	
• Exercise/Sports (If applicable!)		• TV/Videos/Entertainment	
• House Chores		• Socialising (Outings etc)	
• Commuting		• Internet/Email/Chat/Facebook	
• Shopping		• Other _____	
Sub Totals:	A		B
Grand Total (Add A & B):			C
Time Left (168 - C):			

- Determine what blocks of time are wasteful. How could you use them to serve the Lord?

### Right Attitude About Time

Read Psalm 90:12.

- What should be our prayer concerning the use of the time that God gives us? \_\_\_\_\_

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*That we might use it wisely*

2. Why is the proper use of our time today so important (James 4:13-15)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*We don't know about tomorrow life is short*

3. What does God demand of us in the stewardship of our time (Psalm 62:8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*That we trust in him at all times*

When do you find this hardest to do? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does Christ admonish us to do as stewards of time until He comes again (Mark 13:33-37)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Be on the alert. We don't know when He will return*

5. If we are wise stewards and heed the commands of our Lord, how will we use our time (Ephesians 5:15,16)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*We will be wise, making the most of our time*

What does making use of our time have to do with wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

*How we use our time shows how wise we are. If we waste our time, we are foolish. If we live purposefully, we are wise*

With evil days? \_\_\_\_\_

*Time is like money. We buy a little every day. We can buy up opportunities to do good or waste our time on evil pursuits. Then our days become evil.*

## **Right Relationship With God**

6. As wise stewards concerned over the use of our time, what will we want to understand (Ephesians 5:17)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The will of the Lord*

7. What is necessary in order to know fully the will of God concerning the duties of our stewardship (Ephesians 5:18)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*To be filled with the Holy Spirit*

8. What will the Holy Spirit give the faithful steward to enable him to perform the duties of stewardship (Acts 1:8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The power to do what God asks us to do. Sensitive to God moment by moment.*

9. In whose name should the steward perform these duties (Colossians 3: 17)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The Lord Jesus Christ*

10. What should be our attitude as we utilize the time over which God has made us stewards (Ephesians 5:19-21)? \_\_\_\_\_

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*An attitude of praise and thanksgiving, making music in our hearts to the Lord*

### **Most Important Use of Time**

11. As wise stewards who know and are obedient to the will of God, what will we spend much of our time aggressively doing (Mark 16:15)? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Preaching the Gospel to Creation*

12. Of what value is a soul according to Christ in Mark 8:36,37? \_\_\_\_\_

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*More than the whole World*

**What is the greatest thing that has happened in your lie? What, then, is the greatest thing you can do for another?**