

August 2014 Devotional: Carpe Diem By Jerry Furniss

Ecclesiastes 8:15 So I recommend the enjoyment [of life]. People have nothing better to do under the sun than to eat, drink, and enjoy themselves. This joy will stay with them while they work hard during their brief lives which God has given them under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 11:8 Even though people may live for many years, they should enjoy every one of them. But they should also remember there will be many dark days.

While praying for our friends and family, we are reminded that there will be many dark days, but we are to spend our time enjoying life. "Carpe Diem" is Latin and is translated as *Seize the Day*. It means embrace life, grab the opportunities, and make the most of the present moment. Instead of pondering the past or worrying about the future, you should live in the here and now. We can waste so much time reflecting on the past, the things that happened, why they happened to us, what we did wrong. We can also waste so much time dreaming about a brighter future, about the things we would like to do or become one day. Carpe Diem reminds me that yesterday is gone, tomorrow is not yet here, and today is our only chance to make a difference. If you make the most of today then you will live your life to the fullest.

We should see each day as a present and an opportunity. They are both gifts from God. That is why it is called the "present." The gift of choice makes every decision an opportunity. Every minute is valuable because you can use it to enjoy life, to get something started, or to get something completed. The present moment is the only time in history in which you can do action—and use that action to do good and to change the world (your world) for the better.

Each new day is also a privilege. The time we take up being unhappy, the time we use up worrying about the future or pondering the past is wasted. It is a wasted opportunity and a wasted privilege. Time wasted with unhappy and negative thoughts is time you will never ever get back.

Carpe Diem tells us to free ourselves from the worries, the anger and the negativity that is holding us back. It reminds us that it doesn't matter where you came from, what you went through in the past; the only thing that matters is where you are going and that your future destination starts with the steps you take today. Today is our only chance to seize the moment in Christ, to make a difference, and to live. Always remember that it is in this moment, and only this moment, that you can be happy, you can say and do something, you can love, you can feel, you can enjoy and you can learn. Therefore Carpe Diem!