

# The power of now

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Have you ever found yourself being preoccupied with the past? Have you ever found yourself being preoccupied with the future?

It is edifying to learn how the power of the past and the power of the future influence the power of now.

## **Power of the past**

Here are some quick reminders about the power of the past.

- We should learn lessons from the past.
- The power of the past can be crippling.
- The power of the past can be liberating.

In the past, Christ suffered and died for you. In the past, God raised Him from the dead.

## **Power of the future**

Here are some quick reminders about the power of the future.

- The liberating past empowers the future.
- We should avoid an empty focus about the future.
- God gives us a glimpse of the future because He loves us.

## **Power of now**

How well do you handle reality? Are you enjoying the good times of life? How well are you dealing with the bad times?

We as believers confirm that obeying God helps us to deal with reality—to better enjoy the good times and to better deal with the bad times.

Do you want to see yourself more clearly? What is your motivation for obeying God? Which of these three reasons most often describes your reason for obeying God?

■ To be blessed now.

“Jesus answered them and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled’ ” (John 6:26).

■ To be blessed at the resurrection.

“Then He also said to him who invited Him, ‘When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just’ ” (Luke 14:12-14).

■ To willingly honor God—now.

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again” (John 10:17).

“ ‘Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? “Father, save Me from this hour”? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again’ ” (John 12:27-28).

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

“For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God” (1 Peter 2:19-20).