
How can I make time to care for others?

Our Heavenly Father has instructed us to be kind to one another (Zechariah 4:32), bring joy to one another by helping them out (Hebrews 13:16), love one another (John 13:34), comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18), be generous with one another and be a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), speak often to one another (Malachi 3:16-18), listen to one another and to share one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

God's two greatest commandments are to love God and love one another, as He has loved us (John 15:12), loving one another is a true sign of our love for God and our desire to live Christ like. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do for our brethren and sisters, we do for Him. Knowing that God will reward our compassion and kindness towards others should encourage us to go out of our way to help and care for others (Proverbs 19:17).

We need to learn to use your time wisely, and not get caught up in our busy lives but make time and prioritise our family and ecclesial members. We need to be **creating time** to surround ourselves with our ecclesia members and work together as one body to bring glory to God. This involves attending ecclesial activities and meetings, checking in and spending time with one another, and being hospitable towards others. **We must also take the time to get to understand and know our brethren and sisters.**

Where has time gone?

Time is something that we don't seem to have enough of, we often find ourselves out of time or not having enough time to do things for others. We need to make time to check in, visit, or help others.

We will be held accountable for how we spend our time, so we need to ask ourselves, **are the things we are doing profitable and helpful to others?** God has called us to be wise in how we spend our time. The more time we give to God and His disciples, His brethren and sisters, the more He will strengthen us against weakness and folly.

Time is our most valuable asset

Time is our most valuable asset, yet we often waste it rather than investing it, and our reward is so valuable - everlasting life in the Kingdom. We need to use our time wisely and invest time in doing what God has commanded us to do, and that is to give our time to his services and caring for others. We get 84,600 seconds each day. Why waste it? It doesn't carry over to the next day, we need to make every second count. **Our time is free, yet it is priceless**, and once time is wasted, we can never get it back, so we should use it wisely. Remember even though time flies, we are the pilot of our own time, and if time is not found, it needs to be created.

We have the example of King David recorded for us showing his dedication to his people and faith. King David was a busy King with a lot of responsibility, making sure everyone was being provided for and managing many nations. **King David was rich and could have filled his life with worldly things, but he put God and caring for his people first in everything he did.**



We need to take time out of our busy schedules each week to be supportive to others. We can show that we support them by checking in on them with a quick visit or making a cuppa for them, a text, a card, offering to pick something up from the shops for them, doing their laundry, helping them with their children, cooking a meal for them or mowing the lawn, even small gestures of kindness and care can be comforting to them. We could invite them and their family over for a meal and we should be including them in our social activities, to make them feel loved and accepted. If we are unsure what to say to a person in a text or phone call, or if there are no words for the situation you can send a screenshot of a nice image, e.g., bunch of flowers, to brighten up someone's day, and let them know you are thinking of them. We need to give them time out of our busy schedules each week, and to remember actions speak louder than words.

The greatest gift we can give someone is our time. Because when we give our time, we are giving a portion of our life that we will never get back, it is a gift.

Let us remember what we sing in Hymn 163, "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee, take the moments of my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet and let them be filled with messages from Thee."

(A recording of the Adelpian Singers performing this hymn can be found by clicking on this link - <https://youtu.be/QMTI3wyLxZw>)

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