



## Carpe Diem Seize the Day!

By Vincent M. Newfield

Time seems to fly by so quickly. Days turn into weeks, weeks turn into months, and months turn into years. It's true that time waits for no one, and we cannot turn back the clock or relive any part of our past. But we *can* learn to value the time we have and savor each season of our lives.

### **Value where you are.**

When we go through hard times, it is encouraging to know the promise from Scripture that "this too shall pass." What we may not want to hear is that this same sentiment also applies to the good times in life—they too shall pass. Now I'm not trying to rain on your parade, but what I am trying to do is just give us all a reality check. Why? So that we will learn how to enjoy each day and each memorable moment as they come.

Just like there are different seasons in a year, there are also different seasons in our lives—childhood, adolescence, teen years, young adulthood, newly married, child-rearing years, and so on. And with each season comes things we like and things we don't like. We can hope and wish this weren't true, but that won't change them. Instead, we must ask God for His grace to face and fully embrace each season we are in and focus on all the good that season holds.

Are you single? Focus on everything good about being single. Are you married? Focus on the bountiful blessings of married life. Are you potty-training and parenting tiny tots who have 1,001 questions and enough energy to power a small community? Focus on the joys of watching your children grow. Remember, every season has its challenges, but every season also has its treasures. Pondering the problems will only bring discouragement and despair, but learning to look for the good and value where you are will help keep the right positive focus.<sup>1</sup>

### **Don't be afraid to take some risks.**

A life with no risks is a dull life. Of course we shouldn't take risks that would knowingly jeopardize our life or the lives of others. However, we need to break out of our box of boredom now and then and do something different. For instance, instead of eating around the dinner table every night, have a picnic on the porch or the living room floor. Rather than getting the least expensive meal on the menu or the cheapest hotel room available, splurge and get what you really want. I'm not suggesting you throw away money frivolously. I'm just encouraging you to step out of your comfort zone occasionally and enjoy the resources God has blessed you with.

You and I only go around this ride called life once, so let's make the best of it. We only have a certain amount of time on this earth. James 4:14 says *...you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen tomorrow. What is the nature of your life? You are [really] but a wisp of vapor (a puff of smoke, a mist) that is visible for a little while and then disappears [into thin air].* Therefore, we should seek to make the most of every opportunity God sets before us, enjoying life and being a living witness of His life-changing love.<sup>2</sup>

### **Savor the flavor of the season you're in.**

*To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted . . . . [God] has made everything beautiful in its time* (Ecclesiastes 3:1,2,11). I encourage you to value the season you're in right now. Invest in the people God has placed in your life. Whether they're your children, spouse, relatives, coworkers, friends or church family, give them your time and attention as opportunity arises. Smile, laugh, cry and share your life with them. Make memories while you can. The season you're in right now will one day come to an end, so make the most of it. You may never pass this way again.

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(1) See Philippians 4:8. (2) See Ephesians 5:15,16.