

- > **So often**, when we have something important to tell someone we ask them, "**Hey, You Got A Minute?**" It's a kind way of telling them that we really have to talk to them about something pretty important.
- When I think of all the important things, that we might have to say to someone (*in a lifetime*), I wonder if we ever bring up the discussion about "**eternity**"? I mean, when we compare getting 14, 38, 66, or 100 years of life on earth to an infinite amount of time in "eternity", then shouldn't "**eternity**" be the most important topic, that we would ask them a minute for, to discuss?
- **So**, just how important is "1 minute" of someone's life?
- Have you ever heard the phrase, "**They were here one minute, and gone the next**"?
- Do you know anyone who was younger than you, who has died already?
- **So now** I ask again, How important is "1 minute" of someone's life?
- Our soul has just a "**short time**" while in the flesh... a short time to make a decision for Christ's eternity, or another eternity!

-- **Psalm 103:11-17a**, "11 For his unfailing love toward those who fear him, is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. 12 He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. 13 The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. 14 For he knows how weak we are; **he remembers we are only dust.** 15 **Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die.** 16 The wind blows, and we are gone - as though we had never been here. 17 **But the love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear him.**" NLT

> **Ok**, We have **4 mega things** happening in this passage:

1) **14** For he knows how weak we are; **he remembers we are only dust.** The phrase "**how weak we are**" is substituted here for the Hebrew word "**yetser**", which means "**frame**", or "**formation**". So, God KNOWS how **weak** our flesh is! He knows, because He created it. He formed the **foundation & frame** of our earthly bodies, and He specifically created them, to "**Not last forever**"! Our bodies are Earthly tents (*temporary shanty's*), made to only last for a short venture, while we live on earth. Is it no wonder why the music-group "**Kansas**" sang, "*I close my eyes, only for a moment, and the moment's gone. All my dreams pass before*

*my eyes, a curiosity. Same old song, just a drop of water in an endless sea. All we do crumbles to the ground, though we refuse to see. Now don't hang on, nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky. It slips away and all your money won't another minute buy. Dust in the wind - All we are is dust in the wind.".....(our body's framework, will NOT last forever!)*

2) **16** **The wind blows, and we are gone** - *as though we had never been here.* Let us understand how "**the wind**", has anything to do with our coming & going. Certainly, high wind forces can knock the blooms right off of a tree, leaving it bare and looking as though it is dead. **But**, the wind quoted here is the imagery & representation of "**God's breath**".

-- **So**, we can find "**2 Breaths of God**" - working in our lives:

1) the **Cool Breath** that God sends us, to refresh our soul  
- which gives us all that we need to keep living on earth.

2) the **Hot, Dry, Breath** that God sends us, when it is time for our fleshly body to wither away, in preparation for our eternal journey home to our final resting place.

-- Both Breaths agree with **verse 15**, that we "**bloom & die**". Ecc. 3:1-2 supports this: "*1 To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven - 2 a time to be born and a time to die.*"

- 3) **17** *But the love of the Lord remains forever, with those who fear him. Is the fear of our failing flesh of such a major concern? The answer is both: Yes and No. Yes, if you have NOT turned your life over to Jesus Christ, for your eternal destination will NOT BE in heaven. And "No", if you HAVE given your life & soul over to Jesus, for you WILL reside with the Author of Life (*Jesus*) forever. And again, verse 17 says, "*the love of the Lord REMAINS FOREVER, with those who love & fear Him*". Why can't we love God Now (today), instead of waiting until we about to die, and then decide to believe in Him, out of the fear of entering into His Presence? We should believe before we die, to enjoy His Love & "Cool Breaths of Refreshment".*
- 4) **OK**, let me backtrack to **verse 15**, since it is our main topic: **15** *Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die.* Have you ever watched the seasons of grass & wildflowers? They have their shining MOMENT in the sun, and then they wither & go away for awhile!
- Truly, we all will have a "**golden-time**" (*a blossoming*) under the sun. We have a **Spring-time** (*our birth & adolescent years*). We have a **Summer-time** (*our young adult years*). We have a **Fall-time** (*our mature adult years*). And we have a **Winter-time** (*our elderly years & death*).

--- The time that we **peak** in our life (or, **blossom & bloom the most**), is between our late Summer and early Fall seasons.

\* If we say that we are "**over the hill**", then that is the moment that we **stop** "**ascending**" the hill and **start** to "**descend**" it again. In essence, we have **bloomed** to our fullest, and are beginning to **fade away**....(as verse 16 said, "**and we are gone** - *as though we had never been here.*")

> OK so, **Is all of this true?** Well, let us look at what we **already know about our ourselves**... some simple Truths about our flesh.

1) It is **weak & fragile**...(just remember *what one microscopic-virus did, during the height of the Covid attack*)

-- **And, how about:**

2) Our **skin** that starts out smooth, and later wrinkles up.

3) Our **bones** that start out strong, and later become brittle.

4) Our **teeth** that starts out strong, and later become decayed, and even fall out.

5) Our **hearing** that starts out sharp, but later it deteriorates to almost hearing nothing at all.

6) Our **eyes** that start out clear & focused, and later become cloudy & out of focus.

7) Should I even talk about our **hair**, that starts out so beautiful, and later starts to grey & fall out in clumps?

.....(*OK, I know you get the idea... and yet, these are hard Truths!*  
*It is just the flat Truth; **our flesh will NOT go on forever!***)

-- The crazy thing to me, is that: we "**invest**" so much into our flesh; something that just withers, dries up & dies so quickly.

-- **I mean**, literally we:

a) **look** at it. (*we love the beauty of it*)

b) **touch** it. (*we love the feel of flesh on flesh*)(*sensations*)

c) **worship** it. (*we literally get obsessed with it*)(*porn*)

d) **applaud** it. (*we celebrate fleshly feats*)

e) **exalt** it. (*we rejoice over what the flesh can do*)

f) **kill** for it. (*we go to extremes to have fleshly things*)

-- **We**:

a) **Mess** with the flesh. (*touching & tasting everything*)

b) **Manipulate** it. (*we work things out to get our fleshly way*)

c) **Master** it. (*we learn to swindle situations for our wants*)

--- **And yet**, we are just **a mist**; *here today, and gone tomorrow!*

\* As quickly as we came to earth, we are gone just as quickly.

Life is a "**short journey**" between our blossoming &

blooming to our eventual "*eternal-habitation*" ("*dwelling*")

-- We **care** so much for our flesh (*doing everything that we can, to preserve it*), **but**, try as we might, we cannot stop the aging or degeneration process of our bodies.

-- **And here's the deal**: When our **body** can no longer sustain us, our **soul** will break-free from the body's encapsulation and live on! **In a way**, it's like the "**medicine capsules**" that we put in our bodies. The capsule goes into us, dissolves, and releases its medicine. So it is with our body & soul. **Sadly**, we place too much emphasis on our flesh (*the capsule*), instead of on our soul (*the medicine inside*)!

> **Let me move to closing....**

\* **Please**.....(*Please*)..... I know that we all think that we are invincible, especially when we are young. We think that we are 10 foot tall and bullet proof. Nothing can take us out before our time!

-- **But**, this message cries out to us to **KNOW** that life (*in the flesh*), comes with "**time-limits**".

--- There truly are "**time-limits**" surrounding important things (*people*), in our flesh-life. People (*souls*), who are our:

- a) **parents.** (*honor them with your time/respect*)
- b) **children.** (*honor them with your time/teaching*)
- c) **grandchildren.** (*honor them with your time/wisdom*)

\* **Any human being can be gone, before you even know it!**

--- **Shouldn't we be "investing" in them NOW; TODAY?**

We are told in [Matthew 6:19-21](#), "19 **Do not** lay up for yourselves treasures **on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 **But** lay up for yourselves treasures **in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 **For** where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." ESV....(**our "treasure" should be "souls"**)

> **But, on another note:** Shouldn't we be "investing" in our own soul NOW; TODAY?

\* For our family, friends, strangers & ourselves, we have GOT TO "MAKE TIME" for "Soul-care".....(time spent searching our soul, and seeking God's intervention, to offer our soul rest)

-- In life, our core can become **sore**...(when I say our **core**, I mean our **soul**. Thus, our **soul** can become **sore**.)

-- Our Soul can become Sore **at**:

- a) how we couldn't get the things we wanted out of life
- b) how things may have not turned out the way we wanted
- c) how our bad choices led to terrible consequences
- d) how people aggravate us...(family members, friends, others)
- e) how God just didn't seem to do it for us



-- **And if** we leave our soul in this “**sore-condition**” (*festering like an infected wound*), it can harden, and make us physically sick! **It’s true!** In **John 5**, Jesus comes across a man, who has been lame for 38 years. Jesus heals him, and the lame man walks away. **Verse 14** tells us, “*But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “**Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.**”* NLT... (*Harbored sin, can cause great sickness*)

-- **Seriously**, our soul becomes emotionally & spiritually stressed, but that stress, has to go somewhere.... Stress upon stress, eventually becomes physical ailments. And frankly, our bodies were never meant to hold that kind of stress. Jesus knew this about our “**weak & frail**” flesh, that’s why He said in **Matt 11:28-29**, “**28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**” NIV  
...(Yes, Rest (Healing) for your souls!)

-- **I wonder often**, **How many broken, sick & festering souls are out there?**

...souls who:

- a) haven’t forgiven someone close to them
- b) haven’t let the past, stay in the past

- c) haven't let their bitterness of heart go
- d) haven't let their grudges go
- e) haven't forgiven themselves over past ut-ohs
- f) still harbor hatred & anger towards other people
- g) haven't let their destructive thoughts go
- h) are physically sick, because they won't turn to Jesus
- i) etc., etc., etc.

-- These things kept in the soul, keep us surrounded in sickness, shame, guilt & anger towards the world & ourselves. This is NOT at all how God designed us to live. This broken world just makes us sicker & sicker, and more broken. This is why God stepped in, and sent His Son to be our: Savior, Healer, Breath & Life!

-- God acted on our behalf... He spoke to the prophet Isaiah and said to him ([Isa. 40:6-7](#)), "6 A voice said, "**Shout!**" I asked, "What should I **shout?**" "**Shout that people are like the grass. Their beauty fades as quickly as the flowers in a field.** 7 The grass withers and the flowers fade **beneath the breath of the Lord** - and so it is with people".

--- Now, Why would the Voice of the Lord tell Isaiah to "**Shout**", or "**Cry Out**"? If God wanted Isaiah to "**Shout**", or "**Cry out aloud**", then it must have been an important message!

- **And that's it:** God wants us to know that: ***all human life is transitory*** (*fleeting; a mist*)! **But,** He also wants us to know that: His Word (*His Promises*) are **FIXED** forever!  
Promises that those who turn to Him in faith, and call unto His Name (*in Jesus*), will be saved out of the broken world. And in fact, they will know His "soul-rest" in this world, long before they ever leave it.
  
- **So please...** When we stop to chat with people and ask, "**Hey, Do You Have a Minute?**" (*and they actually give us that minute*), let it be that we: **fill that minute with** what is important; *namely, asking IF their soul's eternity - is secure in Jesus Christ, or not?*
  
- **Who do you know, that needs for YOU, to ask them for a minute of their time, to ask them the most important question of their life?**  
...is it: a family member - a neighbor - a friend - a stranger - a broken & dejected soul - yourself - WHO?
  
- **Quickly now,** seek God's re-assuring "**Hand of Salvation**" for yourself, and for other souls who move into your "**Sphere of Influence**" - **before it's too late!**

## **Discovery Questions:**

- 1)** How important is 1 minute of someone's time? If someone gave you 1 minute of their time, what would you say to them?
- 2)** What is the "average time" (*years*) that someone's soul gets on earth? Is there even an "average time" to people's life-spans?
- 3)** Do you know someone who was younger than you and has died already? How does that make you feel, deep down inside of you...(*do you think about it deeply*)?
- 4)** Psalm 103:11-17 says people (*their flesh*) is weak (*dust even*), and therefore short-lived; but do you believe this? Do you believe that your time on earth is like the grass or a wildflower, here today and gone tomorrow? If you do, does that change the way you view life?
- 5)** When Psalm 103:15 says that we "bloom & die", what do you think the word "bloom" means? Truly, we understand what it means to "die", but what does the word "bloom" mean?
- 6)** Do you believe in the "resurrection of the dead"; or that your soul will live on after your body wears out? Can you explain to someone what that looks like, as you understand it?

- 7)** If people (*including ourselves*) have a “time-limit” set upon our time on earth, then why do so many people care more about their flesh instead of their soul? If we believe that our soul (*and other people’s souls*) could really be here today and be gone tomorrow, why are we NOT having the most important discussion about “Eternity” with them; or with ourself for that matter?
- 8)** Matthew 6:19-21 tells us to “store up treasures IN HEAVEN, instead of on earth – So what is “the treasure” spoken of in this passage?
- 9)** In light of the “time-constraints” that this message speaks of, what are you going to do the next time someone gives you a minute of their time? Maybe the answer is found in Isaiah 40:6-8, and in God’s Promises!
- 10)** Does your own soul find any “urgency”, to sharing the soul-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with anyone near & dear to you?