

# Seeing Opportunities Clearly

Lesson 04 of 04 in the series "Seeing Clearly in 2020"

## A. To make the most of this year, I need to see opportunities clearly.

"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do."

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT)

1. I need to see opportunities to do good.

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

2. I need to see opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

"Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone."

Colossians 4:3-6 (NLT)

3. I need to see opportunities to grow and mature.

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect (mature) and complete, needing nothing."

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

## B. Four things that will help me see opportunities clearly in 2020:

1. Readiness

- Readiness requires margin (space to notice opportunities when they come). "'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'" Luke 10:41-42 (NIV)
- Readiness requires flexibility (willingness to change). "It is pleasant to see dreams come true, but fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them." Proverbs 13:19 (NLT)
- Readiness requires faith (confidence that what we hope for will actually happen - Heb.11:1). "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

2. Wise counsel – To take advantage of this opportunity, what do I need to know, and who knows it?

"Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success." Proverbs 15:22 (NLT)

"Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV)

*Note:* Not all opportunities are good opportunities. "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity." Ephesians 4:26-27 (NASB)

3. Honest evaluation

- What are the pros and cons of this opportunity? "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?" Luke 14:28 (NLT) "The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence." Proverbs 14:16 (NLT)
- What are my motives? "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God?" Galatians 1:10 (NIV) "Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." 1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)
- Will this opportunity allow me to make the best use of my time, energy, and calling? "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful..." 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV) "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Ephesians 4:1 (NIV)

4. Time spent with God every day

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”  
Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

“Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.”

Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

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### Connect Group Questions:

1. Using dictionary.com's definition of "opportunity" as "a situation or condition favorable for attainment of a goal", what opportunities came your way last year?
2. Which of the following opportunities given in Scripture would you be most excited to receive? Why?
  - Galatians 6:10
  - Colossians 4:3-6
  - James 1:2-4
3. Opportunities may not last long. What do the following verses teach us about being ready?
  - Galatians 6:9
  - Luke 10:41-42, 12:40
  - Proverbs 13:19
4. Share with your group an opportunity you missed because you weren't ready to take advantage of it. What did you learn from the experience?
5. Discuss the following questions that can help us evaluate opportunities.
  - What do I need to know, and who knows it? Proverbs 11:14 & 15:22
  - What are the pros and cons of this opportunity? Luke 14:28, Proverbs 14:16
  - What are my motives? Galatians 1:10, 1 Timothy 6:10
  - Will this opportunity allow me to make the best use of my time, energy, and calling? 1 Corinthians 10:23, Ephesians 4:1
  - What does the Bible say? Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 119:105What other questions do you ask when evaluating opportunities?
6. Spend some time as a group sharing opportunities in front of you right now. Pray for each other asking God for wisdom, counsel, favor, and courage to do the right thing.