

## What's Your Availability?

By Pastor Bill Hayden

02/01/2024

It is interesting that people may have wonderful aspirations to achieve some great accomplishment in life but never seem to find the time. An opportunity crosses your path to pursue your heart's desire and you hesitate because of the timing. You say to yourself, "This would be perfect if I wasn't committed to \_\_\_\_\_. Months go by and suddenly you realize that your commitment to hold on to the present is no longer adding value to your life's goal. You think about the opportunity that you passed up because you were not willing to make the sacrifice and trust God.

The world is filled with... "Could have been people!" There would be teachers, artists, musicians, inventors, designers, doctors, lawyers, you name it... had they availed in their pursuit. In conversations, you hear individuals say, "I could have been a doctor if I had completed my residency." Some of those 'could have been' are brilliant individuals trying to compensate for missed opportunities. It's always in their minds, what could have been if they had been willing to take the time and make the sacrifice to fulfill their destiny.

The blessing and the curse that we have been given by our Creator is "Free will." In this life, we are presented, for the most part, opportunities that are achievable with sacrifice, dedication, and determination.

There is a story in the Bible of a young man who was very wealthy and morally righteous who desired eternal life. He asked Jesus, "what good thing he could do to live forever" and Jesus told him to keep the commandments... to which he replied, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "Do not commit murder, adultery, steal, give false witness, to honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." The young man replied, "I've kept all these; so, what else do I lack?" Jesus told him to, "Sell his possessions, give to the poor to have treasures in heaven, and follow Him." {Matthew 19:16-26 NASB} The young man walked away grieved because he viewed his possessions as his life and he was unwilling to see Jesus as the way to eternal life. He treasured life in the here and now without a view of eternity.

Many times, people make requests to the Lord at their convenience and are not willing to act when the real opportunity is made available to them. Do you want to live forever with a perfect body? What's your availability?

Celebrate with us at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium, every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life, and enjoy a cup of coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new

friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at Villages Community Chapel or visit <https://villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club>