

Day 8

## Life On Loan: *Use It or Lose It*

*We are God's masterpiece.*

*He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,  
so we can do the good things he planned for us, long ago.*

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

Many times as teenagers, we automatically respond to our parents' advice something like this: "It's *my* life and I can do what I want with it!" This is the same impulse that lets us think that our elders are so old that they no longer remember what it was like to be and teen and like us, be in complete control of their lives. Why are we under the impression that our life is just ours alone, with no thought given to how we got here in the first place? After all our parents did give us life. Remember that God's hand was in it, also.

Life was God's idea. People are also God's idea. Everything we have comes from him. When we come to this realization, it becomes clear to us that we are stewards of all that God has given us. God means for us to make good use of His precious gift of life.

According to Eric Rees, Life Choice 2, our focus for this week, is to steward our unique style wisely. God has blessed each of us with our own special gifts and talents. He has also given us a limited time on earth, passions, money, experiences, relationships, and a purpose. And He expects us, as good stewards of His gifts, to manage them wisely.

How many times have we found ourselves in a job that, although it was what we had been trained for, was unfulfilling. Perhaps when we began our training, it was what *we* wanted. However as time went on and we grew in God's grace and wisdom, we found that the path *we* had chosen was not in God's plan. When we listen to God, we find that we have the zeal and energy to do God's will.

*Use it or Lose it.* How many times have we heard that phrase? As a musician, I can truthfully tell you that if you don't use it, you will lose it. No matter how long I've studied and practiced my skill, I can never quit using it because in time, I will lose it. Whatever job we have worked on and trained for, if we don't continue to use what we've learned, we will forget. It's the same with God's plan for each of us. His will for us is a continued work in progress. We never take God's gifts without giving them back.

In Zephaniah 3:17, the Bible tells us how much God really does love and care for us. "The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He

will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” God has designed you to make a specific difference in the time he has given you. Ask him to show you how to steward your passion in ways that maximize the benefits for his sake. Only you can be you, which means only you can do what God made you uniquely to do.

Eric Rees gives us one more verse to ponder today: “If you grasp and cling to life on your terms, you’ll lose it, but if you let that life go, you’ll get life on God’s terms” (Luke 17:33 from The Message)

*Father, remind us that we are your unique creations. With surrendered hearts, we ask you to open our eyes to the work you desire to do through our lives—the work you have already prepared for us to do. Help us to live each day wisely with eternity in mind, seeing ourselves as stewards of what you have entrusted to us. We ask this in you Son’s name...Amen.*