



Time Remaining

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Eternally Speaking Now*

Check out this lesson from...a **clock** and a car wash.

Earlier this week, our family was out and about, and my husband saw a car wash. The car was a mess, so the **timing** was perfect.

The wash was unmanned, the kind that has two options side by side: one for an automated drive-through wash and the other for a do-it-yourself power rinse.

As Robin drove up to the automated entry, he said to me, "If it's \$7, I'll just go to the other side and clean it myself." Well, it was exactly \$7, so he looped the car around and went to the other side for the cheaper alternative. He scrounged around for some loose change, having no idea how many **minutes** he'd get for a couple dollars. As he inserted the coins, the **minutes** on the "**Time Remaining**" display climbed in number, finally stopping at 3 minutes and 20 seconds. Yup, 3:20.

If you know me well, you also know I enjoy numbers: I am not superstitious, don't gamble or do the lottery, and see absolutely no power in the numbers themselves-- it just happens to be one of the many ways the Lord will get my attention. In fact, God Himself loves numbers: they're all over the Bible, and they're in every part of nature.

I recently began reading *Mathematics: Is God Silent?* by James Nickel. It's fantastic. Math is at the basis of everything, and everything is created by God and for God. He is **"before all things, and in Him all things consist."** (Colossians 1) Our glorious Creator uses numbers to order everything, from the bee to the snowflake to the very molecules of the atmosphere in which we live and breathe.

But I've digressed.
Back to the car wash.

Every **time** God gets my attention through a number,
it turns out to be the "address," or location
for a verse in the Bible;
and 320 is one of my favorites.

[\(Read a previous writing, *Do You 320?* here.\)](#)

There are about five verses I love with this reference.
One of them is Revelation 3:20, when Jesus says to His church,

***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and dine with him,
and he with Me."***

When I saw the car wash **"Time Remaining"** sign say 3:20, I (of course) took a picture. Then I spoke Revelation 3:20 out loud and did what it says: opened the door of my mind and heart and invited Jesus into my **moment**.



Then something intriguing happened.

As I watched from inside the car, I noticed that the "**Time Remaining**" sign wasn't changing.

Time passed, but the **timer paused**.

Robin power-rinsed all areas of the car, but 3:20 didn't count down.

In fact, after the car was cleaned and as we drove away, the sign still said, "3:20 **TIME REMAINING**".

This was a simple phenomenon that spoke powerfully to me.

May I share a lesson from the **clock** and the car wash?

The Bible says we know not the **day** or **hour** when Jesus will return for His Bride. (Matthew 24:36) God's Word also says we don't know what **tomorrow** will bring. (James 4:14) It also says only God knows the number of our **days**. (Job 14:5)

Today could be our last.
We do not know our **time remaining**,
but we do know this:

***Jesus is constantly knocking at our doors,
calling us to open up and let Him in.***

Did you know that Revelation 3:20 is the Lord speaking to His church? The context isn't about unbelievers opening the doors of their hearts to get saved. While God does desire that, and we can certainly encourage an unbeliever to do so, *the message from God in this verse is actually to believers-- to those already saved.*

It's an invitation for those who call Jesus our Lord
to actually live like He is our Lord.

How do we do that?

By **pausing**,
listening to the voice of our Savior,
opening the door of our minds and hearts,
and 'letting Him in'.

Engage in
daily,
hourly,
minute-by-minute
fellowship
and communion
with Him.

Talk with Him,
tell Him how you feel,
and welcome Him into
every **second**.

That is something we can do-- *we must do--*
while we still have **time remaining**.

CHALLENGE

In the midst of this car-wash-**time-remaining**-320 encounter, I had been texting back and forth one of my dear friends. For **years** she has endured a long, emotionally grueling trial, primarily involving the health of her father. He has suffered with leukemia, neuroendocrine cancer, immune compromise, and all the hideous side effects of

radiation and chemotherapy. Through all the tears, unknowns, and raw emotions, my friend has displayed a holy determination to keep her faith in God and hold fast to His promises. Many have prayed alongside their family, and we've seen the mighty hand of God countless **times**.

Then this week, doctors warned he may only have **weeks** to live.

Knowing what my friend has gone through, and because we were already in the middle of a series of texts, I was compelled to send her the above picture along with a summary of this **clock** and car wash story. I also mentioned Ephesians 3:20 in my message to her, as it 'just happened' to come to mind as I texted. (Included below is verse 21 as well.)

"Now to Him (God) who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Her text back to me was beautiful. Here is a portion of it:

"Amen! An emphatic "Yes!!" to everything you said.

AND, additionally:

Ephesians 3:20 happens to be the one scripture that nearly everyone has sent to me in response to my last letter about Dad.

I also received Revelation 3:20 from one person as well.

God can do anything with my Dad's remaining time...

i.e. multiply it or cause it to stand still.

He can do far more than we could ever imagine or guess or request in our wildest dreams!"

How encouraging. These are words of a woman dealing first-hand with a heart-wrenching situation. God often gives us a consistent message or repeated Scripture, using multiple sources. *He loves His children.*

I know many reading this have also had to endure great suffering, experiencing pain similar to my friend's, even **now**. I pray her words are comforting to you in a personal way.

Her testimony is not yet finished, but frequently it's our response during the yet-to-be-finished testimony that speaks the loudest.

She finished her text by saying,

*"Further, if God went to such lengths to speak this truth to us
(through the 3:20 sign)
at the price of a couple dollars (for a car wash),
how much more so will He ensure that we see it (His truth)
made manifest in Dad, with Jesus' own blood having been paid!
I'm overwhelmed."*

Dear people of God, we don't know how much **time** we have remaining. In the **moments** we do have, may this simple incident of the **clock** and the car wash remind us **today** to **pause**, make the most of every **minute**, invite Jesus into each **second**, and rise up yet again with a steadfast faith that believes God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think.

Did you know there is an historically documented situation in human history when God stopped **time**?

The sun and moon literally **paused**. They stood still.
The Lord did it to defeat the enemy!

Even mathematicians and scientists over the **years** have discovered evidence of this event having occurred.
(Read the true story in Joshua 10 below.)

God is for you.
He fights for you.
Pause and let Him in.

[Link to Joshua 10: God Pauses Time](#)

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