

Andy Stanley serves as the Sr. Pastor of Northpoint Community Church in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He authored a book in 2004 called, "The Best Question Ever". Below is a brief summary of his observations on how to manage time wisely.

As you review these principles, think of the various dimensions of your life: professional, physical, relational, and spiritual. What are some adjustments that you can make now, to ensure that you avoid having regrets later?

**1. There is a cumulative value to investing small amounts of time in certain activities over a long period.**

Andy says, you "can't go back and relive, relove, rearrange, reprioritise, redirect or refocus." You can, however, start today to recommit to activities such as exercise or deeper communication with your spouse, or routinely seeking feedback from your colleagues. These behaviours may not yield much benefit from one day of attention, but over many months, the return on the investment is large.

**2. There are rarely any immediate consequences for neglecting single installments of time in any arena of life.**

Disregard your health, or your spouse, or your employees or customers for a day, and you probably won't hear any complaints. But if you put off that important-but-not-urgent activity one day, the second day is easier, and then the third, and pretty soon....

**3. Neglect has a cumulative effect.**

Allow any important aspect of your life to go unattended for an extensive period of time, and you have major repair work to do. Sometimes, of course, the effects are irreversible. A burst of energy and special attention may not correct some periods of neglect.

**4. There is no cumulative value to the urgent things that you allow to interfere with the important things.**

You are constantly bombarded by interruptions and random pursuits. They seem relevant for the moment, so you stop or delay your important activities to attend to them. When the day is done, you wonder, "What do I have to show for my efforts today?" When you add up all the "what did I do instead of" activities, there's usually not much of substance.

**5. In the critical arenas of life, you cannot make up for lost time.**

The important areas of your life require small deposits all along the way. If you miss those opportunities, they are lost forever.

(adapted from article by Dennis Hooper, published in the Houston Home Journal on Saturday, September 20, 2008)

**May 15, 2011**

## Living

Ecclesiastes (selected verses)

1:1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

1:2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

1:3 What do people gain from all their labours at which they toil **under the sun?**

1:4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

1:9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new **under the sun.**

9:11 I have seen something else **under the sun:**

The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong,  
nor does food come to the wise  
or wealth to the brilliant  
or favour to the learned;  
but time and chance happen to them all.

9:12 Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come:

As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare,  
so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.

3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also **set eternity in the human heart;** yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

12:13b Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

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Please pass along my prayer/praise but without my name

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On the:

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