

## **LESSON # 10 Time Teaches us the Most Valuable Lessons**

**“Receive God’s grace for not knowing the things only time could teach you.”**

So often, we look in the rearview mirror wishing we had made different choices, been wiser when we were younger, or known then what we know now. Living with pancreatic cancer has often led my mind down those roads—thinking about things I should have done differently, words I wish I had said, people I wish I had spent more time with.

But over time, God has filled my heart and those thoughts have been replaced with gratitude. Gratitude for the memories, the relationships, the lessons, and especially the trials that have shaped me into the person I am today. Experience is a teacher that cannot be rushed. Some lessons can only be learned by walking through them.

Instead of regretting the past, I’m learning to be thankful for the journey, trusting that God is using every chapter—both the good and the difficult—to mold my character and draw me closer to Himself.

### **HOW GOD uses time to teach us, and why**

Jesus was a storyteller. He taught profound truths through parables, asked thought-provoking questions, and used stories to help people understand God's kingdom.

John tells us:

**"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."**  
(John 1:1 NKJV)

Then a few verses later:

**"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."** (John 1:14 NKJV)

The Word is Jesus.

God communicates through His Word, His Spirit and His providential work in our lives. Throughout Scripture, He reveals Himself through the stories of ordinary people whose lives He transformed for His purposes.

It should not surprise us, then, that Hebrews calls Jesus the **Author of our faith**. Like a master storyteller, He is writing a unique story in each of our lives. Every chapter has a purpose. Every trial teaches a lesson. Every victory reveals His faithfulness. Especially the difficult chapters are part of a greater story that He is unfolding.

Our job is not to understand every page as it is being written. Our job is to trust the Author, knowing that He sees the beginning, the middle, and the end—and that His story is always leading somewhere good.

Philippians 3: 3 Brethren, I do not count myself to have [d]apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Hebrews 12:2 tells us to look unto Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith."**

When we think of an author, we think of someone who writes a story. An author creates a journey. He develops the characters, introduces challenges, allows conflict, reveals strengths and weaknesses, and weaves together moments of triumph and heartbreak. The best stories contain suspense, adversity, heroes, villains, victories, and setbacks. Every chapter serves a purpose in shaping the outcome.

Jesus is the Author of our faith. He sees the entire story from beginning to end. He is not bound by time as we are. He knows every decision we will make, every challenge we will face, every victory we will celebrate, and every trial we will endure. Nothing surprises Him. What may seem like a confusing chapter to us is simply one page in the masterpiece He is writing. The trials, delays, detours, and even the painful chapters are all being used to shape our character and draw us closer to Him.

But Jesus is not only the Author—He is also the Finisher.

As I think about the world's greatest soccer players, there are very few who are considered elite finishers. In the most critical moments of the game, when chaos surrounds them and the pressure is overwhelming, they remain calm, focused, and unwavering. They see the goal when everyone else sees confusion. They finish the play. They finish the game. They secure the victory.

That is what Jesus does with our faith.

Through every storm, every disappointment, every diagnosis, every setback, every temptation, and every trial, Jesus remains focused on the ultimate goal. He is not distracted by the chaos that overwhelms us. He is not discouraged by our weaknesses or surprised by our failures. He is committed to completing what He started.

The Author never abandons His story, and the Finisher never leaves the work unfinished.

**Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)**

*"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

The same Jesus who wrote the first chapter and lost chapters of our faith has already seen the final chapter. He is writing our story, shaping our character, and finishing His work in us. Our job is not to know every chapter in advance. Our job is to keep our eyes on the Author and trust the

Finisher. The victory is not in doubt because the One writing the story has already secured the ending.

**Time can be our greatest teacher, but it can also be our greatest adversary.**

Time teaches lessons that no book, mentor, or classroom can fully provide. Wisdom is often earned through experience, mistakes, trials, victories, and perseverance. Many of the things we know today could only have been learned by walking through them.

Yet time can also become our enemy when it is wasted. Lost opportunities, neglected relationships, postponed dreams, and delayed obedience are often the result of assuming we have more time than we actually do. We are NOT promised tomorrow.

The challenge is to learn from the past without living in it, prepare for the future without fearing it, and trusting God fully today while we have it.

**Psalm 90:12 (NKJV)**

*"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."*

This verse is part of a prayer written by Moses, the oldest psalm in the Bible. Moses had witnessed firsthand how quickly life passes. He watched an entire generation wander in the wilderness and die before reaching the Promised Land. His prayer is not about counting the exact number of days we have left; it is about living with an awareness that our time on earth is limited.

When we understand that our days are numbered:

- We stop wasting time on trivial things.
- We forgive more quickly.
- We love people more intentionally.
- We become less concerned with temporary problems.
- We invest more in eternal things.

As I reflect on my own journey, I've come to realize that time has been one of God's greatest tools in shaping my life. The lessons, relationships, victories, failures, and even the hardships have all served a purpose. I cannot change the chapters behind me, but I can be grateful for what they taught me and intentional about the pages that remain.

**“Receive God’s grace for not knowing the things only time could teach you.”**

**Time is a gift. Learn from it. Respect it. Don't waste it.**