

**MAY 2012 BE A TIME TO REMEMBER
A TIME TO FORGET and FORGIVE
A TIME TO BEGIN ANEW**

**May God meet all your needs in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19**

Presence of God

God desires to be with us in all that we do. He is there for us no matter what it may be. Whether you are facing problems that seem insurmountable, undertaking various tasks, meeting emergencies or taking advantage of opportunities that come your way, God wants you to know He is with you in all that you do.

God's Word to Us: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

- ¹ There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
¹ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
² a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
¹ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
² a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
¹ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
² a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.**

Reader: What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 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. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. The Word of the Lord!

A Year of Time: Steven B. Cloud

Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2012 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The New Year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

A Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,

Spirit of the Risen Christ,

Be with us today and always.

Be our Light, our Guide,

And our Comforter.

Be our Strength, our Courage,

And our Sanctifier.

May this new year, 2012, be a time

Of deep spiritual growth for us,

A time of welcoming

Your graces and gifts,

A time for forgiving freely

And unconditionally,

A time for growing

In virtue and goodness.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Be with us today and always.

Amen.



A Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,

and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

**LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS.
FOREVER!**