



Decide to Live Today | Doug Wekenman | 11.8-9

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome to Week 6 and the last week of this sermon series, **“Kiss the Fire.”** This series has invited us to face the fires we would rather avoid and discover how Jesus meets us there with purpose and healing. During the final week, our focus is on one of Pastor Shawn’s chapters, *“Decide to Live Today”*.

The more fires we have today, the more we tend to worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow’s worries rob us from truly living today. Fires in our lives often create fires in our mind, and with that comes the endless possibilities of “what ifs”. Fear is faith in the wrong “what if”, but “what if” works both ways. We can focus our attention on the fires and the worries of tomorrow, or we can ask what God might have in store for us today. Lets decide to live for today!

- ☐ What is the biggest fire in your life, and the biggest “what if” tied to it?
- ☐ Is your “what if” derived from worldly worries or from God’s promises?
- ☐ How can you reframe the “what ifs” in your life?

In Matthew 6, during the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus invites us to not worry about tomorrow but to seek the Kingdom of God first. Seeking God first is an active decision we make every second, every hour, every day and in every fire. God will provide everything we need, including strength for today’s fires and peace for tomorrow’s worries, but it starts with seeking His Kingdom and deciding to live for today.

GROW

Read Matthew 6:32-34

☐ **What does it look like in your life to seek the Kingdom of God first?**

☐ **How do Jesus' words change how you think about your current fire?**

How do we decide to live for today? First, let's talk about tomorrow...

Jesus did not say we should never think about tomorrow. He said not to worry about it. The best way to avoid worrying about tomorrow is to live God's way today. Often the reason we worry about tomorrow is because we have not been stewarding what God has already given us. If He has our obedience today, then we can trust His outcomes tomorrow. We cannot trust His outcome tomorrow until He has our obedience today.

With obedience, we can rest in the heart of God and in His promises. If we are obedient today, we can live for today. Let's choose obedience and God's promises today. We are not promised tomorrow, and we can rest knowing that Jesus has already taken care of it.

You are not promised tomorrow (James 4:13-14)

We are not promised our next breath, hour, or day. When we focus on tomorrow, we risk missing everything God has for us today. Our fires may be very real and very hot, but so is our God. We must focus on what is, not what if. The "what if" may never happen. Let tomorrow worry about tomorrow.

Jesus already took care of it (Colossians 1:17)

There are over 2,000 fulfilled prophecies in Scripture. Of those, 300 prophecies about the first coming of Jesus have already been fulfilled. The remaining 500 prophecies about His return are still ahead. Since we trust Scripture, we trust these promises. God is outside of space and time, eternal and holy. He is already in yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He knows the fires we have walked through, the fires we face now, and the fires we fear in the future. He saw the fire, He is in the fire, and He will be there when you walk out of it.

The bigger our view of God, the more we can put our fires in their proper place. We look at our fires through the lens of God, not minimizing them but magnifying Him. Since God is present in all places and all times, including today's fires and tomorrow's worries, let Him carry tomorrow because He is already there.

☐ **How does the reality that we are not promised tomorrow change the way you decide to live today?**

☐ **What would it look like if you trusted that Jesus already took care of it? How big is your**

God perspective? Do you have limitations on God's what if miracles?

Now let's first talk about today...

Life is not happening tomorrow; it is happening today. God's plans are today. Our calling is today. We face today's fires by choosing gratitude and choosing to live fully.

Get Grateful (Philippians 4:8)

Our culture is filled with endless fires. We get caught up in the problems of the world or the problems we create and forget that the very air we breathe is a gift. We get good at imagining worst case scenarios instead of focusing on God. It is only through mercy and grace that we are alive today at all. Gratitude will carry you through any fire, but it requires intentional practice. When we focus our minds and hearts on the good things God is doing, our perspective shifts. Gratitude changes how we see today's fires and makes tomorrow's worries lose their grip.

Live the fullest life you can (Psalm 118:24)

We often drift through life without considering our mortality. There will be a day when you meet the Lord, and that day could be soon or "soon." Until then, we must examine our priorities and make sure they are in the right order. Fires try to shrink your view of God, pull your priorities out of alignment, and push you into fear. God wants you to experience life and experience it fully. Prioritize what matters and choose to live today.

- ☐ **Do you tend to focus on the fires or what God has done in your life?**
- ☐ **What are your top three things you are grateful for today?**
- ☐ **What does it mean for you to live for today?**

M O V E

Read John 16:33

Jesus said in this world we will have trouble, but He also said to take heart because He has overcome the world. Both sides are true, but one usually gets more of our attention. Jesus knew we would face fires, but He reminds us to seek Him and choose to live for today.

We live for today by practicing gratitude, living fully, remembering we are not promised tomorrow, and trusting that Jesus already took care of it. We can face any fire because we have a real God in the fire with us.

☐ What side of this verse do you tend to focus on?

☐ Which set of what-ifs get your faith?

P R A Y

Pray over any fires and the what ifs that keep us in bondage from living for today. Pray over those who need a bigger God perspective. Pray for an intentional decision to seek the Kingdom first. Pray over those who are about to be baptized next weekend.