

Quote: HP ([NYSE:HPQ](#)) recently posted its second-quarter earnings, and the results didn't impress investors. The PC and printer maker's revenue fell 11% annually to \$12.5 billion, missing estimates by \$240 million. Its adjusted net income declined 10% to \$0.7 billion, as its adjusted EPS dipped 4% to \$0.51 per share -- which still beat estimates by \$0.07.

Those steep declines indicated HP didn't profit from the surging demand in new PCs fueled by remote workers during the [COVID-19 crisis](#).

Stop and let that sink in: You are one of the worlds LEADING computer manufacturers...MILLIONS NEED

When I read that I thought...THAT'S what I'm trying to say with message! CHURCH: WE CAN'T BE LIKE HP!

PIVOT: Talking about how we as the church can THRIVE, not just SURVIVE!

We do that by capitalizing on spiritual OPPORTUNITIES to be found in in the heart of this crisis/pandemic

Ephesians 5:14-17 Don't Survive...Thrive!

1. Look In: Prepare Yourself Adequately Vs 14

In order to take advantage of the opportunities we have to begin within. Start getting ourselves right.

- **Wake Up: *Collect your faculties (wake up) Rouse from Sleep/Inactivity: Spiritually Active/Pause***
Here is a key: Many of us...myself included...went on Pause w/lockdown: Wake Up!
- **Stand Up: *Stand up; Raise up; Lift up your hands!* Get yourself READY to go to work.**
Be like the fighter pilots that are READY! On Standby...Waiting for Call, not dead asleep
- **Look Up: Christ will give you light. You are NOT in this thing alone...Jesus will show you**
***"But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me."* 1Co 16:8-9**

When you do your devotions...before you ever walk out of the house...BE READY! Spiritually prepared

2. Look Around: Assess The Situation Carefully Vs 15

Once you have yourself in hand (which is the hardest job!) Then you can look at what's around you correctly

Careful: Lit = *To be circumspect, or careful, to be diligent and pay attention to doing right things (GRASS)*

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| • John 4:35 | Where is the "harvest" READY? | (Who is spiritually prepared) |
| • Acts 16:9 | Where are people ASKING for help? | (Who is asking...) |
| • 1Cor 16:8 | Where is the door of opportunity OPEN? | (Who is willing to hear) |
| • Lk 12:48 | Where do I have ABUNDANCE? | (What am I overflowing with) |
| • Mt 25:34-35 | Where is there great NEED? | (Where are people hurting?) |
| • Mt 25:14-15 | What UNIQUE talents do I have? | (Robin sewing) |
| • Lk 15:17 | Who wants to come home? | Far away...Wishes to return |
| • Lk 14:23 | Who is waiting for invitation? | Compel them to come in |
| • John 12:35 | What is open NOW? Going away | Window of opportunity |

Listen to me, If you walk out of your door in the morning with this list in your mind, and your heart open, prepared and tuned into to Jesus...you will find opportunities EVERYWHERE...Your problem will not be I don't know WHAT to do...but I don't know WHICH one to choose!

3. Look Wisely: Ask: Where Can I Have the Greatest Impact? Vs 15-16

Now, if you do what we just said, and opportunities are everywhere. How do you decide?
Not EVERY opportunity is a CALL to ministry! You have to choose wisely where you invest yourself.
As you prepare to do that there are a couple of guidelines from the Scripture that will help you.

- **Be wise:** Wise: Lit = *Be practical and thoughtful*
~Where is the door open NOW...that will not be open tomorrow?
~Where is the harvest ripe NOW...Am I too early...Am I too late?
~Where can my unique TALENTS match up with NEEDS...People Asking for Help!
- **Be Timely:** Lit = *at a time when everything is aligned, ready*
“Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you.” Jn 12:35
Illus: Have you ever walked away from a conversation, or an encounter...later said..” I missed it!”
If we are Looking in at the beginning of our day, Around during the day, We will be ready!
- **Be Redemptive:** Make the most(redeeming) Lit = *to buy back, to rescue from loss, to restore*
Paul is telling us, make sure you take full advantage of the opportunities when they are present
Later on they may not still be there!
Illus: Booking a vacation place for OBX Found perfect place...Went home show Darlene, Next Day

4. Look Spiritually: What Does GOD Want Me To Do? Vs 17

At the end of the day this is the real question, isn't it? Where would God have me invest my time? What opportunities would God have me step into, What individuals would God have me speak to, encourage, help, serve, invite or call to Him? Knowing what God wants is key, right:

People say to me all the time, Pastor, I will do anything for God...if I just KNEW what it was! His will is a mystery to me. I look around at all the opportunities...and I'm not sure WHAT His will is for me. Decide?

I get it. Every single one of us struggle day to day with trying to determine what God wants...Not Mystery. There are somethings that are very clear. If we being with those...then we can fill in the details.

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| • Help people know Him | 1 Peter 3:5 | None perish |
| • Your mind and life changed | Rom 12:1-2 | Renewing of mind |
| • Your life be made like Jesus' | 1Thess 5:18 | Sanctification |
| • Do well as a testimony to His Grace | 1Peter 2:15 | Meet needs |

CONCL: Let's Go back to where we began. HP, in the midst of probably the greatest one time need DOWN

We look at that and say, wow...how could they have missed it...blown opportunity

Today, as the church...we have the same opportunity! We have people struggling for answers MORE than at any time in our life time!

- Neighbor says, Not doing well...struggling....Tell them where the answer is: Share Devotions/Invite
- Co worker, Marriage not doing well, Family falling apart...share the hope you have
- See someone trying to make ends meet, help...give not just help...but give Jesus!
Pray with me that WE, You and I, And our CHURCH seizes the opportunity

Look In; Look Around; Look Wisely; Look Spiritually