While There Is Still Time
by Joe Duke
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I cannot change what is done, but I can change what will become. While there is still time I will occupy myself with that which is of value. I want to be a friend of God, a man acquainted with God’s ways, intimately in love with Him and possessed by a craving to know Him better. So, while there is still time, I will spend it exploring the depths of the infinite God. I’ll talk to Him and talk about Him. I’ll seek not only to learn more about Him but to experience Him for myself. I’ll take walks with Him, I’ll be still and just listen, and I’ll love Him with my mind as I ponder the rich truths of His character and works.

I don’t want those who are closest to me to ever doubt that they are loved by me. While there is still time I will spend it with my family. I’ll communicate to my precious Tricia that she is infinitely more important than any other person, any ministry or any hobby. And I’ll look in her eyes a little longer when I tell her that I love her.

While there is still time, I will seek to impart to my boys, Benjamin and Brandon, an awareness of a God who is as real and as much a part of our lives as the air we breathe. I will mentor them, guide them, listen to them, play with them. While there is still time, I will work to be present not absent, involved not detached, encouraging not demeaning. I will be aware of the generations to come who will be influenced by what is observed and experienced in my home.

While there is still time, I want to influence people to think deeply about how they can please God with their lives. I want to be an instrument of change, challenging people to think about life and God in ways they may never have considered. Nudging people to grow in their faith and to try new things. I want to help create a church environment that is transformational and not just traditional. I want people to discover the unique contribution they can make to others.

While there is still time, I want to listen to stories of the old days from people who experienced them first hand. I want to talk less and absorb more. I want to seek to understand other people’s points of view more than win a debate with them.

And finally, while there is still time I want to know that I am completing the race God has set out for me knowing that one day I will stand before Him and give an account of my one life. I want to be driven by the hope of Eternity, looking to the day when I will be clothed with a brand new body and live together with my God and the redeemed for ages and ages to come.