

# Are You Doing The Small Things? Part 1

## Are you satisfied?

Do you know in your heart what the “abundant life” is? Is your life as a Christian what you’ve always expected it to be? Be honest with yourself. Are you content with your knowledge of God and the transformation that was once started in you? Do you think you’ve hit a plateau or are you progressing in your faith? Are you satisfied with your relationship with Him or do you want more?

I believe that we are to be content in any given situation. Perhaps we should be content with the spiritual growth we have to date. After all, if you are seeking Him daily (or abiding in Him), you can be sure that you are growing because He knows what He’s doing:

*Philippians 1: 6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

But I don’t think that means that we should not want more. I don’t know about you but the closer I get to God, the more deficiencies and inadequacies I see in myself. This is something that I am not pleased with; therefore, I continue to pursue Him because I know that He’ll continue to work on me. The motive here is not just about being more Christ-like, but being more Christ-like so that I can be of greater use to Him.

**This is the slow and painful death of me.**

*John 3: 30 He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less*

If God is the CEO of a company called God, Inc. then I am a “sold out” company man, reading the Employee Manual diligently and constantly discovering what the CEO likes and dislikes and being willing to change accordingly so that my life will please Him and the Boss’s Son.

Consider these verses:

*Matthew 22: “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”*

Have you ever thought about what it really means to carry out these commandments? Forget about the 10 commandments, Jesus says these are the greatest and that all of the law is based on these two commandments. We are commanded to love Him, and everyone else. Before you start thinking “Really?... commanded to love? What kind of god does that?” Think about this: He’s never commanded us to believe in Him. He’ll never force you to follow Him. He doesn’t make anyone believe that He exists (He gave Nebuchadnezzar seven years to come to his own conclusion, read Daniel 4).

### **He loved us first:**

*1 John 4: 19 We love because he first loved us. (NIV)*

God’s love for us is constant. He is the Rock. He will not move or be moved. We cannot do anything to make Him love us more or less. King David understood this:

#### *Psalm 18*

*1 I love you, Lord;  
you are my strength.*

*2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior;*

*my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.  
He is my shield, the power that saves me,  
and my place of safety.*

Because He loves us, He's given us free will. He is not some puppet master forcing us to trust in Him, otherwise, it would not be love. When we surrender our lives to Him, we make Him our Master. We are then His slaves because we have been bought for a price.

*1 Corinthians 6: 19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.*

## **Just One Thing**

I'd like to focus on just one thing you can do, if you're not already doing it, that will help you to pursue Him and obey His greatest commandments. What I'm about to tell you is nothing new. It's something I'm sure you've been told many times before, but it is essential to spiritual growth and bearing fruit. Are you ready? OK, here is the secret (not really a secret, it just sounds cool to say that) that I've found that really works:

**READ YOUR BIBLE DAILY AS IF YOU**

**AND YOUR LOVED ONE'S LIVES DEPENDED ON IT!**

Follow my logic for a second in case this is not clear enough...

God created you, right? You've made Him the Lord and Master (CEO) of your life, right? He commands you to love Him first and foremost, right? If you said yes to all three questions then what is stopping you from doing a simple daily task that will help you to love Him more? This is called obedience and it pleases Him.

*John 14: 15 "If you love me, obey my commandments.*

## **To know Him is to love Him.**

Before I started taking Him seriously I read His Word very little, very infrequently and with very little interest. I really didn't know how to love Him. After taking Him seriously and reading the Word several times, I appreciate Him much more now that I know Him a whole lot better. The more I know him, the more I love Him, it is that simple. Now that I love Him and because I love Him, I read his Word in greater volume, every day, and with great interest. Do you see the shift that has occurred in my life? This has taken me from being shallow and lukewarm to a passionate man with a purpose.

### ***Hosea 6:***

*6 I want you to show love,  
not offer sacrifices.  
I want you to know me  
more than I want burnt offerings.*

Look, friends. Reading your Bible daily is one of the "small things" you can do. And if you can't be faithful with the small things, do you think He'll ever give you greater responsibilities? (Let me clue you in for a second, completing seminary or starting some ministry is not necessarily God giving you responsibilities.) There are not many things that I can control in my life, but I can control what I read and how much I read, can you?

## **Enough for now.**

But I must tell you that reading the Word is not enough on its own. Over the next few weeks, God willing, I'll be discussing other essential elements involved in spiritual growth. In the meantime, I've included a reading plan that you can use to start developing the daily habit of reading the Word today.

I'll leave you with this one passage to meditate on. I've had the privilege of watching these words come to fruition in my life and you can have hope in this for yourself:

*Romans 12: 1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

## **Will you give your body to Him daily by allowing Him to teach you with His Word?**

*"Dear God, thank you for giving me the privilege of serving you. Please help me to know you more. As I read your Word, open my heart so that I might savor each word that is read. Help me develop a greater appetite for your Word and to develop a habit that will last for the rest of my life. In faith, I give my time to you. Give me the wisdom and discernment I need to spend more time with you each day from this day forward. Thank you, Lord, for leading me in this way. In Jesus' name, amen."*

Reading Plan:

<http://www.thebibleteam.com/plans/Matthew.pdf>

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