



THE ONE THING

by Vincent M. Newfield

What's *driving* your life? What motivates, stimulates and propels you to do what you do? Like the mighty Mississippi and the other rivers of the world, your life has a constant current that causes it to flow in a definite direction. Many are driven by the desire to acquire education, material possessions, money, power and numerous other things. They are ambitious, determined, and sometimes obsessed—always striving for *the one thing* they believe will bring true fulfillment and purpose to their lives. Yet, success and satisfaction always remain out of reach. Why? Because they have not yet discovered *the one thing* that truly matters most.

King David knew *the one thing that matters most*. Amidst all his power, wealth and the position he held, the motivating force of his life was being in the precious presence of the Lord. He said, *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life...* (Psalm 27:4). David had tasted and seen that the Lord was good, and that in His presence is fullness of joy (Psalm 34:8; 16:11). He knew that by making his pursuit of the Lord priority and entrusting himself to the care of the Good Shepherd, he would never lack anything he needed (Psalm 23:1).

The apostle Paul pursued *the one thing that matters most*. He was a pure-blooded Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, member of the rigidly religious Pharisees, and a highly educated and influential individual. Yet, he counted all these things and every other achievement of his life as worthless in comparison to his quest to know Christ intimately. He said, *everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have put aside all else, counting it worth less than nothing, in order that I can have Christ, and become one with him...* (Philippians 3:8,9 TLB).

...I am bringing all my energies to bear on this **one thing**: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us (TLB). So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than *total commitment*, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! (The Message) —**Philippians 3:13-15**

Jesus shined a spotlight on *the one thing that matters most* while visiting the home of His dear friends Mary and Martha. As Martha bustled about exerting extra effort to make the Master and His guests feel honored and comfortable, her sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet, hanging on every His word. Before long, Martha became frustrated over her sister's lack of assistance, and she went to Jesus and urged Him to tell Mary to get up and help. *The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her* (Luke 10:41,42 The Message).

Is Jesus saying that working and paying attention to the practical things in life are unimportant or less spiritual than fellowshiping with Him? No. He is just putting things in to proper perspective: *The one thing*

that is essential and top priority... *the one thing* our entire life should be built on, centered around and directed by is an ongoing, on-fire relationship with Jesus. Period. Nothing else is as important.

Our ongoing relationship with the Son of the Living God sets the main course for our lives like the current of a river. When anything else takes first place and sets our pace, we will eventually fall flat on our face. But when seeking Christ is priority, everything else falls into place—all our needs are met and we have wisdom for every decision (see Matthew 6:33). Does this mean you and I need to be on our knees, in a church, or reading the Bible twenty-four and seven? No. We just need to live life connected to Christ.

Take the challenge! If you have never really given the Lord first place in your life, do so. Start by giving Him the *first fruits* of your day. Take the first five, ten, twenty or more minutes after you're fully awake and give Him your undivided attention. You can read, pray, sing, or sit quietly in His presence. As you seek Him, He'll lead you on what to do (see Proverbs 3:5,6; Philippians 2:12,13). Then invite Him into the rest of your day. You'll be amazed at how He multiplies your time, directs your decisions, and brings fulfillment to your life. Putting God first is *the one thing* that truly matters most!

Vincent M. Newfield and his wife, Allison, are founders of *Prepare The Way*, a teaching ministry dedicated to passionately presenting the timeless truth of God's Word through innovative messages and illustrations. In addition to speaking in churches, Vincent is a freelance writer for *Joyce Meyer Ministries*, *John Bevere Ministries* and other worldwide organizations. www.preparethewaytoday.org

This article originally appeared in Joyce Meyer's *Enjoying Everyday Life* magazine, copyright 2008.