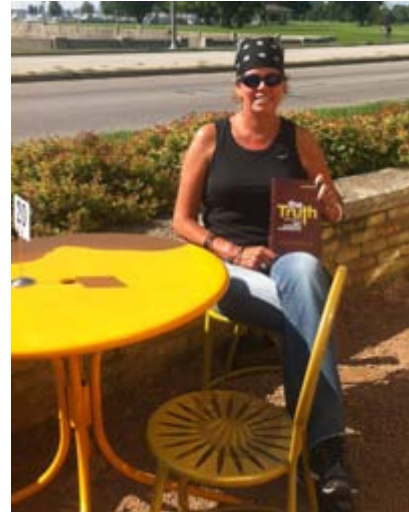


One Thing

Taking from JumpStart Daily eDevo Series

one thing - part 1



"And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed."
Joshua 23:14, NKJV

Whenever I hear the words "one thing"—it gets my attention. When Joshua says that not "one thing" has failed; when the psalmist says there was "one thing" he desired; when Jesus says "one thing" is needful; when the apostle Paul talks about the "one thing" he pursued or when Peter exhorts us to remember "one thing"—it makes me sit up and pay attention.

Apparently, there are several "one things" we need to know about. So, this week, we'll look at several of the "one things" God wants us to know. Let's start with this verse in Joshua 23.

The first "one thing" we need to have established in our hearts is the absolute fact that God keeps His Word. We need to know because we know because we know in our heart and soul that not "one thing" will fail of all the good things the Lord has ever said concerning us. Everything the Lord says comes to pass. Has the Lord spoken to you through His Word? Have you been holding fast to His promises? Are you claiming His Word and standing in faith for the fulfillment of His Word? I know it can be hard sometimes. It's truly a fight of faith—key word: fight! Sometimes, we are tempted to get discouraged or weary in well-doing and we feel like casting away our confidence. Don't do it! Keep believing God.

God is not a man—He can't lie! If He's promised us something in His Word, He will fulfill it. Not "one thing" will fail. We need to remember that God is living in the realm of eternity—He's looking at the past, present, future millennial reign of Christ, the new heavens and new earth and eternity as we understand it all at the same time. Therefore, sometimes His timing, and even the way He fulfills His Word, doesn't always make sense to our natural minds and our human experience, but deep in our heart and soul, we can rest and find comfort in the truth that He is faithful to fulfill His Word—every last word!

If you're standing in faith today, let these Scriptures strengthen your heart. If God was faithful to perform His Word under the Old Testament, how much more will He do so under our new and better Covenant? Not "one thing" that He has promised will be left undone. Our job is to believe Him. Stand strong in faith. Be patient. Know.

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?" (Numbers 23: 19 NIV)

"Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass." (Joshua 21:45 NKJV)

"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses." (1 Kings 8:56-57 NKJV)

"Know this with all your heart, with everything in you, that not one detail has failed of all the good things GOD, your God, promised you. It has all happened. Nothing's left undone—not so much as a word." (Joshua 23: 14 Message)

"Father, I thank You that not 'one thing' will fail of all the good things You have spoken to me through Your Spirit and Your Word. I believe You. I trust You. I thank You for fulfilling Your Word to and for me. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Blessings,



Beth Jones

one thing - part 2



"I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:13-14, NKJV

This week we are looking at the "one thing" mentions in the Bible. In this passage, the apostle Paul talked about an important "one thing." He said the "one thing" he did was forget things that are in the past and focus on reaching forward to the things ahead. Simple, right? Let's look at it...

One Thing I Do:

Forget The Things Which Are Behind: God doesn't want us to live in the past, to be shackled to the "good old days" or to the things we regret. He doesn't want us bound by our past. Because of the mercy of God and the blood of Jesus, we can and must forget the past. We must forget all of our sins, mistakes and failures. We must forget all the pain and hardships. We must forget all the things in which we had our identity. We must forget what we have given up or sacrificed. This "one thing" we must do—forget the past!

(Caveat: If your past is your present—you cannot and should not forget it. You must deal with things in the present that are the result of the past and *then* you can forget those things that are behind. In other words, sometimes things from our past—trauma, defining moments, consequences of sin, etc.—are still affecting our present and we need to deal with the present in a healthy way. When we are able to work through things from our past that are affecting our present, then we need to consider them our past and—at that point—we must forget them.)

Reach For The Things That Are Ahead: If we're always looking in the rearview mirror, we won't be able to see what's ahead of us! God wants us to look out His windshield by faith and reach for our highest God-given potential in Christ. The Lord created each one of His children for greatness and He wants us to discover who we have become in Christ so that we lay hold of the divine destiny and eternal

purpose for which He created us. Our God-given potential won't drop on us unexpectedly; we must reach for it! We must press in and go after everything God has destined for us in His high calling! There is no doubt that a huge part of our high calling will include reaching and influencing as many people as possible for Jesus Christ—helping people to be born-again, filled with the Spirit, healed, filled with faith and on the road to fulfilling their own divine destiny. We are born-again for these things! This "one thing" we must do—reach for the things that are ahead!

Today, be encouraged to be intentional in doing the "one thing"—forgetting and reaching!

"Father, I agree with the apostle Paul and today, this one thing I do, I forget those things which are behind and I reach forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Blessings,



Beth Jones

one thing - part 3



"Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that

my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.' And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'"

Luke 10:38-42, NKJV

This week, we are looking at some of the "one thing" mentions in the Bible. Let's look at "one thing" Jesus talked about.

We all know this story, right?

Martha was likely a Type A personality, probably a "Choleric Melancholy." (*A "choleric" is a doer, with ambition, energy and passion. A "melancholy" is a perfectionist, often self-reliant and independent.*)

Mary was likely a Type B person, probably "Phlegmatic." (*A "phlegmatic" is very relaxed, rational, curious, and observant.*)

Was Jesus telling Martha to change her personality? Was He encouraging her to be more passive and low-key? Was He rebuking her for being industrious, organized and a hard worker? I don't think so.

He was simply helping her understand priorities. Jesus said "one thing" was needful. He didn't say the things Martha was doing weren't important; He just helped her understand that as important as they were—the "one thing" that was needful was time with Him. Sitting at His feet and listening to His Words and enjoying His Presence was more needful than all of the busyness, checklists and tasks at hand.

It's easy to fall into the Martha-trap. We all live busy lives, many of us with kids to cart around, houses to keep, lawns to mow, jobs to work, events to attend and so much more. We often end up just like the hamster on the treadmill, going through the daily grind and accomplishing tasks. There is just one problem—we have neglected the "one thing" that is needful. When we do that—we end up empty, disappointed, frustrated and mad at people who are focused on the "one thing."

If you've been a bit of a Martha—why not carve out an hour sometime today to sit with the Lord and His Word. Maybe you could sit in your car over lunch and just allow your mind and heart to quiet down enough to hear His voice. Maybe you'll have to stay up one hour later to spend some uninterrupted time with the Lord. Whatever strategy you use, if you'll intentionally spend time with the Lord—hearing His voice—your heart will be happy and the Lord will be glad.

"Father, today I want to set my priorities in the right order. I know many things will be clamoring for my attention, but 'one thing' is needful. Lord, I choose today to be more like Mary and less like Martha. I ask You to speak to me as I sit at Your feet. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Blessings,



Beth Jones

one thing - part 4



"One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple."

Psalm 27:4, NKJV

Let's look at one more "one thing" the Bible talks about.

The psalmist desired "one thing"—to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of his life and to behold the beauty of the Lord. For many people, that's a foreign concept. In fact, to some the whole idea of dwelling in the Lord's house sounds like a real drag. Perhaps David knew something we don't know too much about. Maybe David found that when he spent time in God's house, experiencing God's presence—it completely satisfied him in a way that nothing else could. Is it possible that David tapped into something we need to discover?

Notice that when David described this, it was something he intensely desired—it was the "one thing" he desired. He didn't describe dwelling in God's house and spending time beholding the beauty of the Lord as a duty. He makes it sound like a craving. He wanted to spend "all the days of his life" doing this! Listen to how the Amplified Bible describes this passage:

"...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, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the

delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple." (Psalm 27: 4, AMP)

These days, we can see two applications of this passage for us.

First: *On one hand, we know that Jesus is still passionate about His house—His Church—and He's building it all over the world. There is something exciting about embracing the thing that Jesus loves. The devil hates the church and fights it tooth-and-nail; we find great joy and satisfaction when we join forces with Jesus in enforcing the devil's defeat! "...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16: 18, NKJV) I pray that God will give us a greater insight and understanding of this!*

Second: *On the other hand, we know that because of Jesus, we have become the spiritual "temple of the living God." He lives in us and walks through us. When we fellowship with the Lord on a daily basis—from our heart to His—we discover the wonders of His person and we experience His sweet attractiveness and delightful loveliness. Time with the Lord satisfies us like nothing else can. "...For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (2 Cor. 6: 16, NKJV) I pray that God will open the eyes of our hearts to see this more clearly!*

Today, why not ask the Lord for more revelation on these passages so that you can say with the psalmist, "One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple!" (Psalm 27: 4)

"Father, I can see that David the psalmist tapped into something. I am asking You for more revelation on this 'one thing.' Help me to see, know, understand and pursue You, Your house and Your beauty all the days of my life. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Blessings,



Beth Jones