

"BUT ONE THING IS NEEDFUL..." LUKE 10:42

oneth¹ing

TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER



P R E F A C E

“**One thing**” is such a powerful phrase that we find only a few times in scripture, but it leads to a lifetime of application. Jesus told Martha one thing is needed. The blind man knew one thing. The Rich Young Ruler lacked one thing. The Psalmist desired one thing.

As we journey through the Book of Acts, one thing is obvious, our relationship with Jesus Christ matters. We need Jesus, we must decide to follow Jesus, we must truly know Jesus, and we must desire to be in a close relationship with Him.

ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

TODAY I WILL

As we start 2025, let the words of Jesus ring in our ears. One thing is needful... We must place Jesus on our schedules first, and then fill in the rest. If we are going to experience the power of His promise, we must come together as individuals, families, and as the body of Christ into the presence of Jesus.

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ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

Jesus has always been the one needful thing to fulfill the countless lives that have existed since Creation. It was foretold throughout the Old Testament that a savior was coming that would perfect or complete their lives. Peace that was missing from generations of people would finally come and fill their lives. As we contemplate the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost, and the exponential growth of the Church, it is terrifying to read the accounts of the peoples that were not interested in what Jesus had to offer. We find the Gadarenes and the people of Nazareth offended and begging for the one thing they needed to leave them alone. “He came into his own, and his own received him not.”

Jesus came for all of us. He had no other reason for descending into the depths of our chaotic world. The perfect world he created was and has been completely misused by generations of us, but Jesus looks through the mess and chooses to interact with us... if we allow it.

We need Jesus. He will not force his way into our

lives, but “the Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him...”

TODAY I WILL

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ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

TODAY I WILL

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After our need has been met by Jesus, we must allow the Holy Ghost to lead and guide us into all truth. In addition, as we are collaborating with Jesus, we must share the gospel with our community that is searching for that one needful thing that is unfulfilled in their lives.

day 4

ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

READ JONAH 2:7 & ACTS 4

There are times when we may find our focus has been blurred or misdirected from Jesus. Life becomes chaotic quickly. Plans can go awry. Things that we thought we had control of can quickly slip through our grasp. Jonah had these situations in his life. His claim to fame seems a bit fishy. He realized in his lowest point that he needed one thing, and the Bible indicates that he “remembered the Lord.”

Peter and John could have let their circumstances get the best of them. They were imprisoned. Their freedoms were trampled at every turn. This did not dissuade them from keeping the main thing the main thing. They turned these unfortunate persecutions into an opportunity to boldly claim that nothing could alter the course of their lives, because Jesus was leading and directing them.

It is important for us to keep our focus on Jesus. When the needful thing remains fulfilled in our lives, there is no weapon, no life event, or anything else that can prevent us from knowing that Jesus Christ is able to intervene and do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can imagine.

TODAY I WILL

day 5

ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

READ PSALM 91:14-15 & ACTS 5

The plans of Jesus may lead us down roads that we did not anticipate. The early church met opposition at every turn. There were attempts to suppress the good news of Jesus being disseminated. Some in the church made some decisions that shook the church but allowed their focus on Jesus to be sharpened. The church realized their endeavors, as long as they mirrored Jesus' plan, would be honored and blessed in a mighty way.

The Gospel according to Matthew let us in on a secret from Jesus. We cannot simply pay lip service to him. Our hearts must be aligned with what comes out of our mouth. The ramifications have eternal consequences if they are not in concert with each other. The juxtaposition is that when we are following Jesus wholly, we can realize the promises he gave to the Psalmist in Chapter 91.

Because we wholly love him, Jesus will deliver us, promote us, answer us, stand by us in troubling times, and honor us. Beyond these things, Jesus promises that he will bring contentment to our lives,

and most importantly give us the salvation we need to never live apart from him.

TODAY I WILL

day 6

ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

READ JEREMIAH 29:11-14 & ACTS 6

The word of the Lord has revealed that at times we are not going to be able to fully understand what the Lord has planned for our lives. This may cause some confusion, frustration, and possible conflict in our walk with Jesus. We read in Jeremiah that God has promised that his plans are not for evil to be presented in our lives, but plans for peace to give us an expected end. The Lord has promised that when we have the one needful thing for our lives in focus—we can be sure that God is in control.

The early church began to have some conflict. This was not due to some terrible sin that was running rampant throughout the church. It was because the church was growing so fast that the infrastructure was not in place to support every aspect of the kingdom of God. The Apostles had to come together and realize they could not do it all, but the daily operations of the kingdom of Jesus took everyone working together maximizing their individual strengths.

Sometimes, the success of the plans and promises

of God being accomplished in our lives will cause conflict in our lives and community. This requires stretching and growing in order to accomplish what Jesus wishes to accomplish in our lives, families, and community.

TODAY I WILL

ONE THING IS NEEDFUL

READ HEBREWS 12:1-2 & ACTS 7

Jesus explained to Martha that “one thing is needful.” There will always be a place in our lives that can only be filled by that one needful thing. A relationship with Jesus is paramount and is the only thing we need in this world. When we have drawn close to Jesus, everything else in life will sort out. The author of Hebrews reminds us that there have been many individuals that could testify to the goodness of Jesus.

We can all think of those that have entered their heavenly rest that, if given the opportunity, would strongly encourage us that nothing else matters. The author goes on to report that because we have that witness of the goodness and trustworthiness of an amazing savior, we should remove ourselves from any sin or distraction and keep our focus solely on Jesus.

When we focus on Jesus, our lives will be fulfilled and completed by a Savior that willingly went to the cross to remove the chasm that separated us from him.

TODAY I WILL

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day 8

ONE THING IS KNOWN

READ JOHN 9, PSALM 119:105, ACTS 8

The unknown can be scary. It can be crippling. The blind man in John 9 had lived his entire life crippled from being able to visualize his surroundings. He encountered Jesus, was healed, and then was interrogated by his community. This man was being inundated with questions, and he reported he only knew one thing- “one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.”

Acts 8 gives us a visualization of the church being in an unknown area. They were facing persecution and began to scatter abroad. As they scattered, there was one thing they knew. They knew that the gospel of Jesus must be shared.

We no longer are walking blindly through life. The Psalmist reported our current surroundings and the path ahead of us will be illuminated. We do not have to fear the unknown. We know Jesus, and he is in control.

TODAY I WILL

ONE THING IS KNOWN

Saul of Tarsus had an experience that shook him to his core. He had been willing to hunt down and murder the followers of Jesus. This ended abruptly after he shockingly experienced Christ himself. The course of history has been altered because this man came to know one thing. Jesus Christ was Lord.

Jesus instructed us to live or stay in obedience to his words. By staying committed to the word of God, we can be truly identified as his disciples. We are rewarded by the knowledge that he is the truth. This truth that we have received gives us the opportunity to live our lives free from the penalty of sin. No longer do we have to live in opposition to what Jesus is attempting to accomplish in our lives. When we can rest easy in the knowledge that freedom is in our grasp, we identify with the Psalmist when he said, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain unto it.”

Freedom is only available in our lives when we know one thing- Jesus Christ.

TODAY I WILL

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day 10

ONE THING IS KNOWN

READ JOHN 3:3-12 & ACTS 10

The stories of Nicodemus and Cornelius are incredibly similar. These men were not insignificant, but men that were leaders in their community. They both had a hunger that could not be filled in their spirits. They realized there was incompleteness in their lives as they pursued God.

Nicodemus had observed Jesus. He realized that Jesus was fulfilling scripture, and he realized that he needed to know more about him. Cornelius was a man that believed in God but did not fully appreciate who this God was. He prayed earnestly, and the Lord rewarded him by sending Peter to give him the one thing he needed to know. Cornelius needed to know that Jesus Christ was Lord of all. As Cornelius gained the knowledge he sought, the Holy Ghost “fell on all them which heard the word.”

In John 3:11, Jesus reported that “we speak that we do know and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.” Jesus challenged Nicodemus to stop resisting the knowledge that Jesus Christ was, indeed, the Messiah.

This knowledge of Jesus is the first step in having our lives filled by his presence continuously.

TODAY I WILL

ONE THING IS KNOWN

To know someone or something means that there is an awareness gained through observation, inquiry, or information. It also means that development of a relationship has occurred through meeting and spending time with a particular group or individual. The Apostles were in disbelief after Peter's journey to Cornelius' home. They were not aware that the power filling their lives was available to people outside their community. They could not deny the accounts given by Peter, and as they contemplated this occurrence, they realized this was absolutely the will of Jesus Christ. If they knew anything, they knew Jesus.

Jesus wants us to have an understanding, a belief, and the confidence to know that he truly is our Savior. When we come to know Jesus, we quickly

TODAY I WILL

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ONE THING IS KNOWN

The prison sentences of John the Baptist and the Apostle Peter could not have been more different from the above references. John was wrongly imprisoned, and we find that he was struggling with the knowledge of Jesus. He knew that he had been tasked to prepare the way for the Lord and that someone was coming that was mightier than himself, but he was struggling to have full confidence that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus gives the disciples of John the ability to confirm to John that he had fulfilled his ministry.

It appears that Peter had no difficulty trusting that Jesus Christ was in control. He had a knowledge that could not shake his faith. He had been sentenced to death and placed under the careful watch of sixteen soldiers. Peter simply fell asleep. The angel of the Lord had to “smote him” to wake him up. In the middle of his biggest dilemma, knowing that he faced execution soon, Peter took a nap. Peter had found a peace in his knowledge of Jesus Christ. It did not matter what happened to him. He could continue to preach the gospel, or he could be executed for the

We cannot allow the circumstance that are surrounding us shake our knowledge that Jesus Christ has all power in heaven and earth. Peace can envelope us in whatever state we find ourselves because Jesus is in control.

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day 13

ONE THING IS KNOWN

READ HOSEA 6:1-3 & ACTS 13

We see a pattern throughout the Old Testament of the children of Israel rejecting the goodness and greatness of their Almighty God. The cycles of oppression that were self-inflicted put them in positions they were never destined to endure. Jesus has never intended for us to live separated from him. Through our decisions, every single human has placed themselves in a position of self-inflicted demise. The Jews that Paul and Barnabas encountered on their missionary journey were no different. They were intrigued by the message that was shared with them, but ultimately rejected it. Paul and Barnabas would not be deterred. They knew what they had experienced, and they continued to share the great news of Jesus with anyone that would listen.

Hosea transcribed the promise of a loving Savior. Jesus realizes that we have been through some things that we were not designed to endure. He realizes that at times we have had to endure the consequences of making choices that have brought us out of alignment and relationship with him, but he promises to heal and care for us.

Healing and comfort are only available when we return to Jesus. Hosea reports that when we continue to follow the Lord, we will know him, and he will shower us with his goodness and presence.

TODAY I WILL

day 14

ONE THING IS KNOWN

READ PSALM 37:25-26 & ACTS 14

As Paul and Barnabas completed their first missionary journey, there were many things to celebrate. They had embarked on their journey expecting to reach many of their own people that had been scattered abroad but realized that Jesus had come to seek and to save all that was lost. They arrived back to Antioch and began to review the magnitude of what God was accomplishing.

The Psalmist realized that a review of life was important. As he looked back over his life, he realized that through every situation he encountered he found a God that was in control. He never lacked anything when he was walking hand in hand with his God.

It is important to review what we know. We know that Jesus Christ has saved us. We know that Jesus Christ loves us. We know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We have nothing to fear because we know that our Jesus is in control. We have this knowledge because we can review the course of our lives and see the hand of God present at every turn.

TODAY I WILL

ONE THING TO DECIDE

“One thing thou lackest...” These words had to have been a hammer to the soul of the young man that approached Jesus for affirmation concerning his life. Unfortunately for this young man of influence, it was not just one thing that he lacked, but it was the only thing his life needed. I imagine that this man sought out Jesus, because he realized there was something missing in his life despite everything he currently possessed. The fulfillment that Mary had sitting at the feet of Jesus and the knowledge only gained from an experience with Jesus by the former blind man in John chapter 9 was absent in this man’s life.

We can search the whole world over for the fulfillment that we need, but until we are in pursuit and have entered a relationship with Jesus, we are always going to be lacking.

The early church began to have some conflict over issues that were non-issues, and the only way these were resolved was the church coming together and asking the right questions. How does God feel and

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ONE THING TO DECIDE

Blue-collar prison workers, demon-possessed slaves, and wealthy fashion designers usually do not cross paths too often. When Paul and Silas began their missionary journey, they assumed that they were going to Asia, but then Jesus began to redirect their steps. Paul had already completed his first missionary journey, and he felt like he knew what Jesus would want to accomplish, but when he entered Philippi, and could not find the people he thought he was supposed to minister to he had to trust that Jesus knew what he was doing.

The church of Philippi was started by an unlikely group but grew into a church that Paul was able to address in his letter to the Philippians. This church had the risk of never happening. Paul could have decided he knew better than Jesus and pushed forward into Asia. He and Silas could have decided that because there was not a synagogue, they needed to keep walking. After receiving the torture and imprisonment, they could have let the Lord know they were done.

They chose Jesus. Moses clearly articulated to the children of Israel that a choice had to be made. Nothing was going to happen by accident. We have the same opportunity. Jesus Christ has plans for our lives that will have eternal impact, but these plans cannot be fulfilled unless we make decisions to live in obedience to Jesus and allow him to direct each step we take.

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ONE THING TO DECIDE

The journeys of Paul are fascinating. He was relentless in his pursuit to share the goodness of Jesus with whoever would listen to him. Paul was never sure who would accept what he had to offer, but he was determined that he would never leave someone without the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ. Paul knew that Jesus Christ could be found. He knew that he once was blinded by the issues he felt important but was only able to clearly see the truth when he fixed his eyes on Jesus.

Joshua clearly understood that completely following God was the only way to be successful. He was present when the children of Israel rebelled against God and were subsequently forbidden to enter the lands promised by God. He was present when Moses spoke to the descendants of those who had rebelled. Joshua could see a trend. He realized that every single generation had to decide to follow God. There was not a list of commandments that would mean anything unless the people decided to obey and follow the laws put forth by God.

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We must make that decision ourselves to follow Jesus and do our best to instruct and equip those generations after us to make decisions in favor of Jesus as well.

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day 18

ONE THING TO DECIDE

READ HEBREWS 11:24-26 & ACTS 18

It is fascinating to read the accounts of the apostles and compare them with the heroes of the Old Testament. Robert Frost wrote a very well-known poem entitled “The Road Not Taken.” The last stanza of his writing records this:

*I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages
and ages hence: two roads diverged in a wood, and
I- I took the one less traveled by, and that has made
all the difference.*

The decision that Moses made to follow and obey God appeared to many that Moses had thrown away his future. Moses was potentially in line to lead the Egyptian Empire, but he chose to identify with the children of Israel. The apostles took that same opportunity of following Jesus throughout the Roman empire. They gave everyone the opportunity to make this single decision and allow Jesus to change their lives.

Two roads were set in front of these people, and quite frankly, are set in front of us all. We could choose life like Moses, Joshua, and Paul; or we could

reject Jesus and his will for our lives like the young ruler Jesus encountered that lacked one thing.

The choice is ours. This single choice will make all the difference.

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day 19

ONE THING TO DECIDE

READ MATTHEW 16:24-26 & ACTS 19

The events of Acts 19 seem eerily like the events that are happening all around us. The kingdom of Jesus was advancing throughout Ephesus. Miracles and healing were happening throughout this region as people made decisions to follow Jesus. The decisions to follow Jesus caused others to be uncomfortable with their own decisions. Instead of assessing their own lives, attempts were made to stop the momentum that pushed them outside of their comfort zones.

Jesus informed his followers when decisions were made to follow him, life would be altered. Dreams and aspirations that may have been held prior to encountering Jesus were going to change. Jesus reported that life without him would be lost. The rich young ruler was concerned with gaining the whole world. Jesus posed the question, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul, or what shall a man exchange for his soul?"

Decisions we make regarding Jesus are important. Proverbs 23:23 reports that decisions made to

purchase truth in our lives should not have a return policy or resale value. Once we have found Jesus, all efforts should be taken to keep him at the center of our lives.

TODAY I WILL

ONE THING TO DECIDE

The amount of people that the Apostle Paul impacted because of one decision that he made is remarkable. This singular decision to completely devote his life to Jesus not only impacted untold multitudes of people while he lived, but his life has greatly affected our lives as well.

You get the sense in reading his epistles to the churches he helped establish, and the accounts of his journeys in Acts, that people knew that Paul cared about their lives. He tried to convey to them that there was a single decision that had to be made for all their lives. He did not preach to them. He lived his life in a way that modeled for them the ability to give themselves fully to a relationship with Jesus.

He wrote to the Philippians that nothing was going to keep him from his purpose of consistently deciding to stay in relationship with Jesus. To live meant that he could continue in his pursuits to share the gospel. To die meant that his race would have been run, his fight was completed, and he was entering into eternal rest with Jesus Christ.

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day 21

ONE THING TO DECIDE

**READ GALATIANS 2:20, 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8,
HEBREWS 13:6, ACTS 21**

The Apostle Paul realized that his decision to follow Jesus would have ramifications that could cause some personal hardships. He knew that if he were to sit down and shut up, life could potentially get back to some monotony where he did not have to worry about looking over his shoulder to make sure he was safe in his current surroundings.

When Paul decided to follow Jesus, he made a decision to follow him no matter the consequences. Paul had so much freedom in knowing that despite the hardships that could arise, the sacrifices he made to follow Jesus would keep him securely in the hands of his Savior. He reported to Timothy and the Galatians that the rewards for completely selling out to his own personal desires and pursuits would turn into an eternal reward that had no comparison.

Comfort is appealing. Knowingly walking into conflict seems reckless. This would be true if we did not have the knowledge that Jesus Christ will never leave us or forsake us.

TODAY I WILL

day 22

ONE THING TO DESIRE

READ PSALM 27:4-5 & ACTS 22

The desires and goals for life are important. Our schedules are full of things that we are trying to accomplish, and we only have so many minutes each day to attempt to make head way into accomplishing our goals. Burnout is increasing all around us as people attempt to push through boundaries in hopes of arriving to their goals sooner than humanly possible.

The Psalmist was anointed to be king and his journey to reaching his goal was anything but normal. His life was full of great accomplishments reached, and then extreme fear as he ran from those who wanted to extinguish the plans the Lord had for him. David had tremendous failures in his life due to sin and mistakes, but he is characterized as a man that had a heart for God. This is clear as we read his prayers in Psalm 27. He simply desired one thing... He was able to quickly realign himself to his one desire despite sin and mistakes that occurred in his life.

Paul similarly had a single desire. His desire was to be in concert with Jesus. It did not matter the situations he encountered; he centered his life

around a desire to be near to Jesus.

Amid our life goals we want to see accomplished, we must ensure that our ultimate desire would be to find the presence of Jesus.

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day 23

ONE THING TO DESIRE

READ PSALM 63:1-2 & ACTS 23

The Apostle Paul knew that he was facing some trials that could lead to the loss of his life. He knew that he was among hostile opponents he used to lead and interact with in attempts to prohibit the gospel of Jesus Christ being shared. There are not many red-letter instances in the Bible after Jesus ascended into heaven, but we see in Acts 23 that Jesus confirmed to Paul that he was in fact doing exactly what he was called to accomplish. This knowledge gave Paul tremendous peace.

Paul's only desire was to find affirmation from Jesus Christ. He was unconcerned with what trials and persecutions he would face. He simply desired to be near Jesus and to hear him- hearing him say, "well done, keep up the great work."

The Apostle Paul had gone from a view of God that required strictly following and enforcing rules. After his encounter with Jesus, he mirrored the Psalmist. His preaching went from demanding people align with him, to encouraging people to enter a relationship with Jesus, and to desire a life that could be fulfilled by mercy and grace.

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day 24

ONE THING TO DESIRE

READ PSALM 42:1-2 & ACTS 24

Thirst is defined as a strong desire for something. Thirst alludes that something is missing. There is a fluid imbalance in the physical sense. The hypothalamus in our brain is the “thirst center,” it is consistently monitoring different levels of our blood stream and should notify or warn us of an imbalance occurring.

The spiritual man is no different. If we are willing to be sensitive to our relationship with Jesus, we can hear the knock on the door of our hearts that indicate that there may be deficit in our lives that Jesus needs to fill. The Psalmist realized his thirst could only be quenched by consistently approaching his Lord.

The Apostle Paul had one desire. He wanted to remain wrapped in the arms of Jesus. We see that Paul was able to navigate delicate and dangerous situations because he was following the leading of the Holy Ghost. He was not attempting to be conflictual or run into danger. He was simply allowing the Lord to lead him.

We must desire for our thirst to be filled each day. Our physical bodies cannot handle a day without appropriate fluid intake, and our relationship with Jesus requires the same consistency to have the living water present in our lives.

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ONE THING TO DESIRE

READ LUKE 11:9-13 & ACTS 25

It is remarkable to read through the decisions that faced the Apostle Paul. At any point he could have retracted or decided to remain silent regarding the gospel of Jesus. Self-preservation was never a part of the Apostle Paul's mindset. He had completely placed his life in the hands of Jesus. His one desire was to see Jesus' plans for his life be completed. Paul had come to learn that circumstances would not be able to dictate his contentment. His desires were aligned with Jesus, and the peace of mind Paul experienced allowed contentment to permeate his life.

Jesus instructed us that when we ask questions of him, we will receive answers. When we seek for Jesus, he will always be found. When we find a door between us and him, he will always open that door and allow us into his presence.

Following Paul's example and Jesus' instructions seem too easy. This is only because we make things too hard. We were created to have a relationship with him. When we go any length of time without

Jesus' presence in our lives, we will have a sense of loss that cannot be filled by anything or anyone else.

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day 26

ONE THING TO DESIRE

READ ACTS 17:27-28 & ACTS 26

The Apostle Paul clearly made some radical changes in his life. He was well educated on how life should unfold for him. He knew how to follow all the rules. He knew how to be judgmental and enforce a lifestyle that was impossible to maintain without being governed by fear. Then he encountered Jesus. The peace and freedom that he received after being filled with the Holy Ghost was dramatically different from the lifestyle he had previously led.

Paul spoke about this to the men of Athens. He reported that it was not by chance or by accident that we could encounter the power of Jesus in our lives. This savior was close to us, and it was in Jesus that we could have a life fulfilled.

As he testified before King Agrippa and Festus, Paul conveyed to them the fulfillment of the desire that all Jews had been looking for their entire lives. King Agrippa encountered the presence of Jesus while Paul spoke to him. Unfortunately, King Agrippa had too much going for him. His desires held him back from fully experiencing Jesus.

Change may need to happen in our lives. If our desire is Jesus, that change will only transform us into the individual that Jesus intended us to be in him.

TODAY I WILL

ONE THING TO DESIRE

The Apostle Paul lists out some things that he endured as he submitted his desires to be in alignment with the perfect plan that Jesus Christ had for his life. He did not make a list to make himself a martyr, he simply wanted people to understand that nothing was going to stop him from walking together with Jesus. He expresses that every unpleasant circumstance he encountered cemented his knowledge that the work of Jesus was being accomplished in his life.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul reported that he was still moving towards accomplishing the goals that Jesus had for his life. He did not dwell on his past failures or successes. Paul simply kept Jesus in focus and decided he would make every effort to obtain all that Jesus intended for him to gain in life.

The desire of our Jesus Christ was singular. He knew that if he wanted a relationship with us, he would have to give up everything... He wants the same in return.

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day 28

ONE THING TO DESIRE

READ 2 CHRONICLES 15:12-1 & ACTS 28

When one thing is needful, and one thing is known, and one thing is decided, and one thing is desired... an understanding of how to proceed begins to unfold in our lives. The soundtrack of our lives will be that Jesus Christ always intended to fulfill the needs and desires of our lives.

The children of Israel made the decision to enter a covenant to seek the Lord, and whoever would not seek the Lord would be put to death. Ultimately, we find that all Judah “rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about.”

The peace that we need in our lives can only be realized when we replicate the actions of the Apostles in Acts, and the children of Israel in 2 Chronicles. We must set our hearts toward Jesus and seek him with all our desire.

TODAY I WILL
