

MAINTAINING FOCUS

BY: BRAD CULLEN - NOVEMBER 12, 2004

I can easily “win a battle and lose the war.” An overused cliché’ - to be sure, but all too often I get caught up in minor skirmishes and lose sight of my primary objective. I have found that when I maintain focus on my primary objective that I automatically have the insight to deal appropriately with enemy attacks and recognize whether the enemy’s purpose is merely to distract, or a part of his overall strategy to destroy me.

My own primary objective is to have a close, personal relationship with the ONE whom Jesus referred to as “Dad” [by whatever other intimately, informal name]. My thoughts go to the purpose statement of a world-wide missionary organization... “To know God and make Him known.” My experience with some people involved with this particular organization is - they seem to be caught up in methods for “making God known” because they hold the belief that involving themselves in overt evangelism is the means by which to know God. This observation caused me to say to the leader, “If we really know God, we can’t help but make Him known.” He seemed to tacitly agree with a nod, a smile, and a shrug.

I had just written the foregoing when my morning mail arrived and I stopped to open it. A friend sent me the following quote from Oswald Chambers: “We slander God by our very eagerness to work for Him without knowing Him.”

Jeremiah [29:13] said, “You will look for Me and find Me when you look for me to the exclusion of all else.”

Jesus said [Matt. 6:33], “Focus on the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours automatically.” What “things” was he talking about... food, clothing, shelter, and material wealth? Depending upon whatever “things” happen to “turn on” any particular individual. Jesus gives us the formula for getting them automatically. That is, maintaining our focus on the Kingdom of God... and His righteousness and all this stuff gets “added” automatically. Sounds like a pretty good deal! All I have to remember is not to put the cart before the horse.

For discussion: What is the Kingdom of God and where is it, according to Jesus? What is God’s righteousness? Some people are quite surprised to hear His answers.

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