

W.W.G #5 - First things first.

Intro.

Struggle over past couple of weeks to prepare for this morning.

The thing God has really placed on my heart is intimacy with Jesus, knowing Him more deeply & clearly, to walk with Him daily.

So, we'll continue our journey on walking with God.

What is our #1 purpose?

Ask for suggestions

Stuck in daily routine

Lack of purpose.

For some people the way out would be to become a celebrity - to be made much of. Look at me they cry!

Wrong! We aren't here to make much of ourselves but of God.

Where do you get your identity/fulfillment from?

Things of this life - transient, temporary.

Is is wrapped up in job, family, money, hobby? All of these things are only here for a while.

Blurb from Don't waste your life

Greatest Commandment

What is God's priority for us? What would God put at the top of your to do list?

Someone once asked that in the Bible -

Mat 22:36-38

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.

Great:

- Scope
- Implications
- Life covering

First:

- Priority
- Importance
-

Obedient servants or devoted lovers?

As Christians we are in this for the long haul - a life of living for & with Jesus. We have maybe 20-70 years left to live for Him.

Which has greatest staying power? Duty? Love?

David's mighty men - fetched water - attentive to David's desires not just explicit commands.

John 17:26

Jn 17:26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

I have made your very being known to them--

Who you are and what you do--

And continue to make it known,

So that your love for me

Might be in them

Exactly as I am in them.

(Message)

Huge in its implications!

How much does God love Jesus?

This is the love Jesus wants to transplant into our hearts!

Sick with love

In both **S.O.S 2:5 & 5:8**, the beloved cries out that she is sick with love! Overcome with the sheer ravishment of love! Have we ever felt like that with Jesus? That His love overwhelms us? We sing about Amazing grace & standing amazed in His presence - but are we really amazed? Gobsmailed? **Rutherford quote?**

Oh may we never be familiar with Jesus' love!

Eph 1:7-8

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, & which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

Lavished - means excess, to abound, to have more than enough! God has poured out more than enough grace on me! My sins seem overwhelmingly real but the grace that has been poured out on me is superabundantly more than enough to deal with my sin - past, present & future! What has the main focus of my attention this day - my sin or God's provision of grace in Christ Jesus? For each glance at my sin I should take 10 long lingering stares at the grace of Jesus!

How?

Pray

Love poured into our hearts.

Holy Spirit will help.

Part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to continue to make God known to us so that we might know Him more and subsequently love Jesus more.

Realise how much you are forgiven

I talked earlier about being amazed & overwhelmed by Jesus' love - in **Luke 7** we read of a woman who came and washed Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair - and she was a prostitute! Some of the people in the same room were horrified! What did Jesus say? **Luke 7:47** She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she loves much. If the forgiveness is minimal, the love is minimal.

Obey

Jn 14:15 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.* So practical!

Read thru **1John** sometime this week - sobering! *If anyone says, I love God but....*

Our obedience doesn't & never will make God love us - but the way we show we love God is by obedience. **James 2** explains that the main way we demonstrate and show we have genuine faith is how? By what we do! Our actions!

Miss Jesus

What do you think about when you think of Heaven? If Heaven was a place of perfect peace, health, joy and never any sorrow or hardship but no Jesus - would it still be Heaven? Eventually we'd get bored!

I believe God wants to instill in His people a heart that misses Jesus and longs for His return - not just to bring in a new era but because we miss Him. I miss my family, I miss Lin - but do I miss Jesus? **2Tim 4:8** there is laid up for me the [victor's] crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that [great] day—and not to me only, but also to all those who have **loved and yearned for and welcomed His appearing (His return)**. (AMP)

First priority? Greatest thing to do this week? To love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength - that is a sermon in itself! But this week, if we pursue that and let our hearts be warmed by Jesus' love the results will be very practical and life-changing!