

Start the Conversation:

Provoke One Another in Love

PROVOKING QUESTION:

This week, you are encouraged to ask a church member the following:

"Can you tell me something that gets in the way of you having a complete focus on Jesus?"

As you go forth into the week, I need for you to consider the following questions:

- ⇒ Is there something that regularly gets between me and my relationship with Jesus?
- ⇒ Is there some situation in which I regularly find myself that draws me away from Christ's presence and more toward the world?
- ⇒ What do I do to foster a deeper relationship with Jesus on a regular basis?
- ⇒ What could I do to be drawn closer to Jesus and put him squarely on the throne of my heart?
- ⇒ What is the most important thing in my life? Does it keep me from knowing Jesus more clearly and following him more obediently? Am I willing to give this thing up so that I can deepen my relationship with God?
- ⇒ If I were to ask a close friend what they thought of my closeness to Jesus, what do I think their answer might be?



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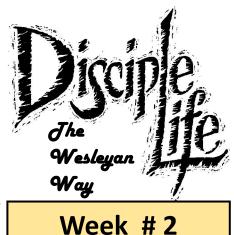
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We live in a world that, some would say, is defined by multitasking. That is the ability to do more than one thing at a time. It brings to my mind a juggler trying to keep several balls moving through the air without dropping any of them. Multi-tasking is great, if you are able to do it. Some people say, it's not possible but only an illusion.



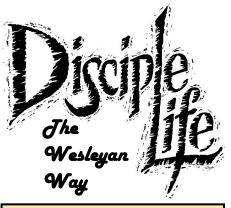
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to consider our relationship with Jesus. In the Wesleyan Way of Discipleship, we begin by putting Jesus on the throne of our hearts. We also have to learn to let nothing come between us and the relationship that grows out of putting him at the center of our lives. Therein, lies the problem that we face as maturing disciples. Sometimes, it is quite easy to get distracted from the main and most important thing. Sometimes, it is difficult to keep our focus upon Jesus and what it is that he wants us to do.

The multi-tasking that so predominates in our day to day earthly lives quite easily makes its way into our spiritual lives. We have lost the ability to focus on the most important thing and get sidetracked by so many things that pull us away from Jesus. It becomes more and more difficult to hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit when our minds are cluttered with so many different things pulling us in so many different directions.

We need to take a step back and truly examine our lives in relation to Christ's call. Are we hearing His voice? Are we going where He tells us to go? Are we seeing the world as Christ sees it? Are we aware of the hurt and pain that surrounds us? Are we able to focus on the main thing—Jesus Christ?

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Week #2

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