

If We Want To . . .

by Bill Crews

Occasionally some human being exerts himself beyond his capacity — he attempts to do what he is unable to do. But this not the course that most of us take. The vast majority of us fail to measure up to our potential, physically and mentally, in the various obligations we have or tasks we undertake.

No one is ever really going to draw heavily upon his resources of time, energy, talent and money in the doing of anything until he really **wants to**, until he becomes **deeply interested** in what he is doing. Most people can excel at anything — selling, building up a business, competing in athletic games, hunting, fishing, gardening, painting, writing, playing an instrument of music, etc. — that they really set their mind to, if they enjoy it, if they are determined, if they are dedicated, if it means enough to them. Hundreds of examples could be cited to support this.

The matter of our salvation, the matter of honoring the God who made us and serving the Lord who died for us, the matter of doing God's will, the matter of living so as to avoid hell and to attain heaven by the grace of God is surely the most important objective in all this world and should mean more to us than anything else. It is something we should want to do, be interested in doing and enjoy doing. To it we should be dedicated and committed. In it we should be determined and unrelenting.

Jesus calls upon us to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33); He requires us to love Him more than we love father or mother, spouse or children, brother or sister (Matthew 10:37); He calls upon us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Him (Matthew 16:24); He commands us to seek and to set our minds upon the things above, and not on the things of the earth (Colossians 3:1-2); He teaches us to be faithful to Him, even unto the point of death (Revelation 2:10).

But the truth of the matter is many Christians, many members of the church are not going to go, and do not intend to go that far. They do not want to; it does not mean that much to them; they are not genuinely happy as Christians; they do not delight in their relationship to God; they do not enjoy doing the work of the Lord; they do not look forward to the assemblies in which Christians worship God together. There are other things they like to do and enjoy doing **more** — to these they gladly give their time, energies, talents and money. There are other things they have to do or count it necessary to do, and these are regarded as more important than the matter of their own souls' salvation. The Lord is "served" of necessity and begrudgingly (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Brethren, we are not going to be happy, fruitful and faithful Christians, and we are not going to prosper spiritually as a congregation until we attach more importance to this great matter of things spiritual than we do to our family responsibilities, job duties, school obligations, civic and social commitments, and pleasure involvements. We shall only be miserable, barren and unfaithful Christians until we give being Christians **first place** in our hearts and lives. Now let each one of us honestly consider: "[What can I do in the work of the Lord, if I want to?](#)"

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