

Bite Size Bible Study

The Little Things #112

By Pastor Lee

I was sitting here in my home office area, looking out into a beautiful day here in Lemon Grove.

Something has caught my attention in the tree across the street. It's twinkling in the sun, and it is so small that if it weren't twinkling I would never have known it was there. It's just a little thing, but it has all of my attention for the moment. There are many larger more important things out there that are also very beautiful and interesting, but I am so curious as to what this little twinkling thing is.

We often go through life like that. We focus on the little things happening in our lives and fail to pull back and get the big picture. We are prone to do that in many areas of our lives.

At home we might be so intent on our children's progress at school that we fail to see that they are growing up and need to have the reins loosened a little in order to mature. Or we may be so wrapped up in making sure that the house looks perfect - clean and well kept - that no one is comfortable in it.

If we are fortunate enough to have a job, we might be concerned about whether we are being paid what we are worth. Or we might be worried about whether we will get that promotion, or whether someone is trying to take our position from us. Will we be laid off or fired?

We can be the same way at church. Are these the right clothes? Is this the right jewelry? Do I have the right version of the Bible? Am I worshiping with enough sincerity? Should I clap my hands or should they be raised up - if so how high or how loud? Am I praying long and hard enough? When praying should I be on my knees or standing with my hands raised to God? Should I be seated at services or can I jump for joy?

All of these concerns may be valid to some extent, but only after we comprehend the big picture. What is the purpose for all of these little things - how do they relate to the big picture?

Our homes are there to provide comfort and protection and help us be a loving family, a place to be loved unconditionally. Ultimately, it should be a place to learn to become a valued and functional member of the family

of God. Do the little things we have and do in our homes reflect these larger goals? If they don't, maybe some adjustments could be made.

We also need to consider the big picture in our employment. Are we making our employer a profit? Remember he is not in business to provide us with a paycheck. That may be a part of his motivation, but he needs a profit to pay his bills and insure that success of the company.

Is the work we do pleasing to him and can we stand before God and honestly say that we performed to the best of the abilities we have been given? When it comes to our job will God be able to say of us, "*Well done my good and faithful servants*"?

Then what is the big picture at Church? It's not the clothes, the bible, or the position of our body; it's our relationship with God.

How well do we know Him – how He thinks, how He acts, what are His plans for us?

Are we comfortable being with Him?

If we are; then the little things like bibles, clothes, body stance, etc., etc., lose their primary significance.

Prayer turns into conversation, and is liberated from all of the negatives that are sometimes attached to it. It becomes as pleasant and natural as talking to our best friend. It is stripped of all time and place restrictions.

So as the old saying goes, "*Enjoy the little things in life.*" But remember that they are made all the more enjoyable, and relevant, when we see them as a part of God's big picture and not as separate little things.

There can be no larger a picture than our relationship with God in His universe; a universe that transcends time and space and even death.

What could be more rewarding than a timeless relationship with the one who has created everything? As another wise old saying goes, "*Don't miss the forest for the trees.*"

Oh, by the way, I never found out what the sparkling thing was in the tree.

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