

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
May 1, 2016

---

Sunday Morning 05-01-2106

Part 4 of Advancing Deliberately: A Proven Plan to Stop Drifting and Start Growing - Following Jesus does not need to be complicated and incomprehensible to regular people

WORRY-FREE LIVING

<http://bible.com/events/26769>

---

Do or Die -- the need for prayer

Poverty-stricken as the church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.

Article by Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994) who was an evangelist and author who challenged the modern church to compare itself to the early Christian church as chronicled in the Book of Acts.

<http://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/february-2016/do-or-die-prayer/>

We're about to start the final addition to our series called Advancing Deliberately: A Proven Plan to Stop Drifting and Start Growing. We believe that growth in a person's spiritual life is not limited to a select group of highly motivated saints. In fact, we go so far as to declare that following Jesus does not need to be complicated and incomprehensible.

We believe there are four essential areas for Advancing Deliberately as we follow Jesus. We can stop drifting and start growing when we focus on these areas:

1. LOVE<sup>2</sup> (Love to the second power)
2. GIVE
3. PRAY
4. DEPEND ON JESUS

This message is about number 4 – DEPEND ON JESUS.

The average American watches TV for nearly 30 hours per week. That's 65 days of nonstop TV watching every year. By the time they graduate from high school, students will have viewed 360,000 commercials. The average 65-year-old will have watched two million commercials. Each of these commercials has been created by smart people who pack their ads with powerful images, catchy music and humor, and memorable slogans. Most of the commercials have a primary theme: this product will give you true happiness and deep satisfaction.

Based on the worldview presented by TV commercials, here's how [one author] would rewrite [Jesus' Sermon on the Mount]:

Blessed are those who fly to luxury vacation spots on tropical islands, where they lie in chaise lounge chairs, the only two people on an enormous white beach; for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are those who drink much beer, for they shall be surrounded by carefree, football-watching

buddies and highly attractive, socially-gifted women in the first half of life; and they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are those who have the latest smartphone, for they shall gaze on a screen swirling with color and shall get all the information they need just when they need it; and they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are those who have outstanding kids. Verily I say to you, highly blessed are those who have a golden ... retriever bounding along on that slow-motion-videoed day of playing with the kids in the park, for they shall be the envy of real families everywhere; and they shall be satisfied.

Citation: Catholic Education Resource Center, "Television Statistics and Sources"; submitted by Kevin Miller, Wheaton, Illinois, [www.preachingtoday.com](http://www.preachingtoday.com)

In response to all these television commercials, not to mention all the advertisements on radio, in magazines and newspaper and on the internet, the vast majority of humans live in a state of perpetual dissatisfaction. We never have enough to be satisfied.

Your vacation to the beach ends – sometimes before it can start.

Your buddies cheer for the wrong team and those young beauties won't give you the time of day.

Your kids have allergies to dogs and your video camera doesn't work. Not a problem though because your family fought and bickered all day.

No wonder it's so easy to sing along with The Rolling Stones:

"I can't get no satisfaction...."

How do we get free from the frets and worries caused by this lack of satisfaction?

1. Many people have the Scarcity Mindset which magnifies their worries.

They see life as having only so much, as though there were only one pie out there. And if someone were to get a big piece of the pie, it would mean less for everybody else.

People with the scarcity mindset are constantly worried because they believe they will never have enough.

These people tend to feel like victims. Someone took their piece of the pie and they want it back.

2. Other people have the Abundance Mindset.

It is the paradigm that there is plenty out there and enough to spare for everybody.

It involves a deep understanding that just because you don't get to have something right now does not mean you won't be able to have it later.

They expect to be victors, not victims. They believe everyone can have everything they want if they work hard enough.

Both the Scarcity Mindset and the Abundance Mindset create worry because they are based on human productivity.

Matthew 6:24-34 NLT

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

### 3. The King's Kid Mindset

Cheryl didn't just tell her that she would never go hungry again. She showed her what was in those drawers and behind those doors, named the meats and vegetables, placed them in her hands. It was enough. Food was there, whether she could see it or not. Her brothers were no longer rivals at the table. She was home. She would never go hungry again.

Citation: Eugene Peterson, *Practice Resurrection* (Eerdmans, 2010), pp. 159-160, [www.preachingtoday.com](http://www.preachingtoday.com)

Sermon in a Sentence:

Some worry they'll never get enough; others think work gets them more than enough; God's kids depend on him to care for them.

Everyone needs clothes and food. We all need the resources to provide them for our families. But, some worry they'll never get enough; others think work gets them more than enough; God's kids depend on him to care for them.

The King’s Kid Mindset liberates us from the anxiety caused by either the Scarcity or the Abundance Mindsets.

The King’s Kid Mindset believes God can be trusted to provide for us. He knows our needs. He loves us more than the rest of creation that he cares for so well. He deserves to be our sole master.

FIRST STEPS:

- Declare your dependence on God’s provision by thanking him for what you have.
- Set yourself free from worry by “Casting all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)
- Seek his kingdom by doing his will on earth as it’s done in heaven.