

What one thing, put into practice daily, will make a huge difference in your life over the course of this next year?

Nothing else has consistently had as much impact on my life as what I suggest to you now. Establish a daily meeting with God. Even if your life is extremely busy, I urge you to make, at the least, a 15 minute appointment with God every day. It takes at least 15 minutes to quiet ourselves, put ourselves in the right frame of mind by praying praise and thanks to Him, reading a Bible passage, and prayerfully pondering the application of His Word to our lives. I know that you will find as much benefit from this as I have.

If you are already meeting with God on some days of the week, you know the benefit of doing so. Now make the commitment, and put forth the effort, to make it every day.

For those of you already meeting daily with God, I have a suggestion for you also. Jesus commands us to love each other as He has loved us. I suggest a practical habit of doing this that God will use to make a huge difference in your life over the course of the next year.

Make it your goal to give 5 minutes of focused attention, compassion, and kindness to one other person every day. After our relationship with God, which must come first, God turns our attention to those He is reaching out to. So I suggest that you reach out to someone with Christ's love every day. Do this either in person or on the phone.

Thank him for something he has done for you or for the church. Thank her for her ministry efforts. Thank him for the time he puts in serving in the church.

Encourage someone. Be praying for this person, and let them know that you are. It may be the person needs you to pray for her, with her, on the phone.

Loving others with Christ is most effective when it is one person reaching out to one person. Big events where we try to touch lots of lives are not as personal, or effective, as one-on-one efforts. If you know how to talk, and use a telephone, you can do this. It isn't hard. Ask someone how she is doing. Invite her to worship with you this week, or to meet over a cup of coffee and tell her your story of how God has changed you and saved you. Ask her what she believes.

It doesn't have to be the same person each day, or each week. But continuing, regularly, to call the same people will not only affect you, but them. Bette O'Bitz, whom we lost this year, used to do this. She accepted an assignment to call three women every week, the same three. And it made an impact on those women, and on Bette.

God will work on you, in you, and through you as you live in relationship with Him and reach out to others with His love. Nothing else, done on a consistent basis, will have as much impact on you, on our church, and on a lost world, as these two things. Make it your goal to grow as a follower of Christ this year.