

THE WORD

DR. CURT DODD

JOHN 1:1-18

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Part 7: When Less Becomes More

John 1:1-8

INTRODUCTION

Why do we often settle for less? Many of us will go into a restaurant today and order our food, but what we end up being given is less than what we wanted. We won't say anything to anyone else at the table or to the waitress. We'll just eat what was given to us and therefore settle for less. Sadly, many of us take the same approach when it comes to our spiritual lives. We settle for less when God has more for us. Jesus came so that we might have life and have it in abundance. He did not come to earth to save us so that we could settle for less than His best. So this week, we're going to take a look at how we fall into the trap of settling for less and how we can overcome that by pursuing the abundant relationship with Christ that is available to us.

KEY POINTS

1. Why Do We Settle For Less?

The less costs less. The less takes less effort, less time, less money, and less commitment. It doesn't call more of you to a strong, healthy spiritual life that is rooted in Christ.

The less can outwardly appear to be real. If you're only concerned about appearances, the less will often be enough for you because from a distance, the less seems to be sufficient. Sadly, there will be people who have accepted less for so long that they begin to think it's the real thing. They start to portray their faith in a way that says, "Look at me", rather than "Look to Jesus."

The less can fill the space, but not the hole in our lives. All of us have placeholders. We have a placeholder in our life for our work, our relationships, and yes, even for our spiritual connectivity. But if you've settled for less in your spiritual life, you're going to feel like something is missing, because a placeholder can never completely fill the void.

The less is more manageable than the real. We settle for less because it's easier to handle. But just because something is more simple and more manageable doesn't mean it's more fulfilling.

The less appeals to our sense of economy. If something doesn't cost you much, there is more of what you have to go towards other things you want. If something doesn't cost you much time or commitment, you have more time and commitment to put towards other things you really desire. But you're settling for less when you don't invest a lot of time and commitment in your faith walk.

The less is safer than the real. If you're going to follow Christ, He is going to bring conviction to your heart. He will not allow you to settle. But many of us don't want that kind of God. We don't want a God of conviction. We want a God of comfort. However, we need both comfort and conviction if we are going to experience a fulfilling, maturity-building faith and therefore receive more of what God has for us.

NOTES

THE WORD

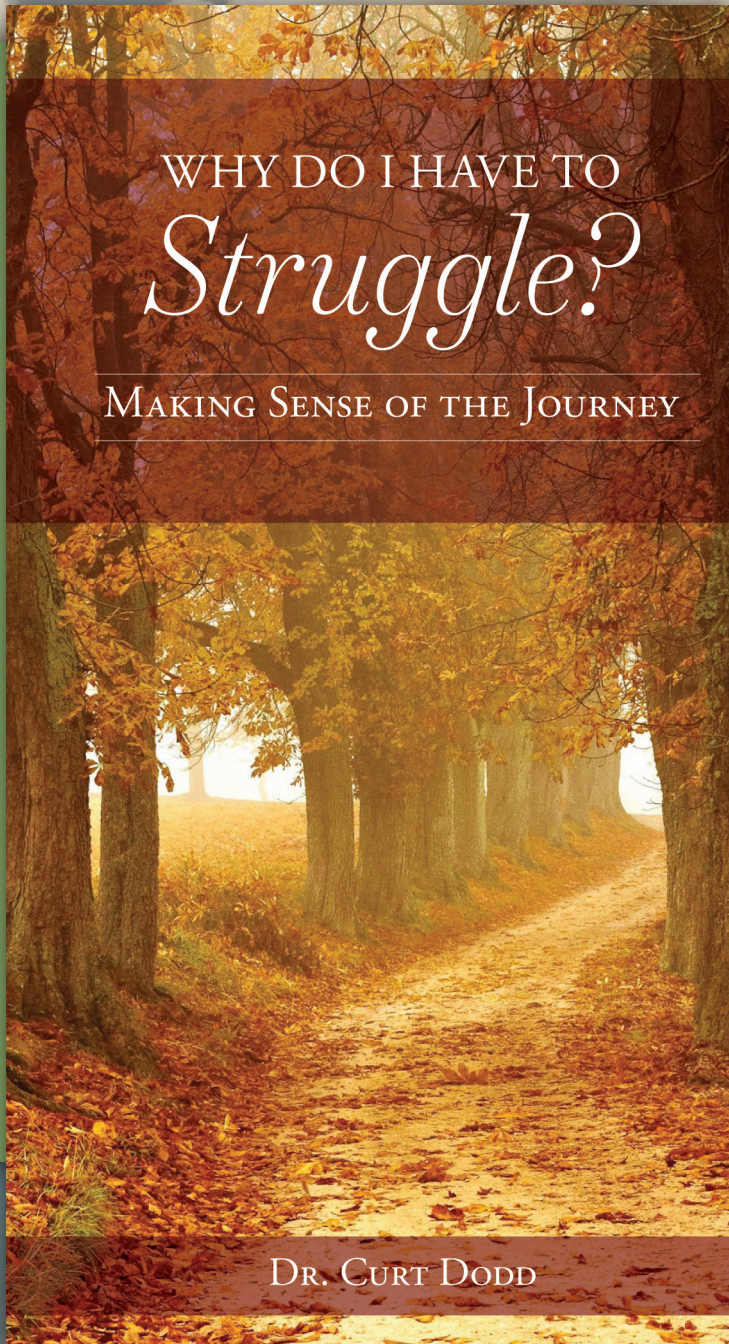
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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Have you been settling for less than what God has for you in your relationship with Him?
2. Which of the reasons for settling do you resonate with the most? Why?
3. Have you been focusing more on a specific manifestation of your faith (worship, church, the Bible, etc.) rather than the One in whom you've placed your faith? If so, where have you lost your focus and what is one thing you can start doing this week to shift your focus back to Jesus?

WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES



God is with us when we are struggling the most.

Visit **HigherAim.org** to order your free copy of Dr. Dodd's most recent book, *Why Do I Have To Struggle? Making Sense of the Journey.*



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