

# small things BIG DIFFERENCE

## SMALL THINGS BIG DIFFERENCE - PART 1

### SMALL THINGS: YOUR ONE WORD

**MAIN IDEA:** It's often the small things that no one sees that result in the big things that everyone wants.

*...“This is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. <sup>7</sup> Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel’s way; it will become a level plain before him! And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: ‘May God bless it! May God bless it!’ ” <sup>8</sup> Then another message came to me from the Lord: <sup>9</sup> “Zerubbabel is the one who laid the foundation of this Temple, and he will complete it... <sup>10</sup> Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...”* **Zechariah 4:6-10 NLT**

“It’s the little things that are vital. Little things make big things happen.” John Wooden

### SMALL ADJUSTMENTS THAT WILL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE:

Week 2: OUR **THOUGHTS**

Week 3: OUR **WORDS**

Week 4: OUR **HABITS**

### ONE WORD AND VERSE

*Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.* **Isaiah 54:2 NIV**

**YOUR ONE WORD** (the word you wrote down on your “one word” notes last month)

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**YOUR ONE WORD BIBLE VERSE** (If you got a verse last month, then write it down or pray and trust God for a verse) \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>21</sup> The master was full of praise. “Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!”*

**Matthew 25:21 NLT**

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## QUESTIONS

What's one thing you would like to change about yourself or accomplish this year?

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How will this "one word" help bring focus to your life?

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What's the first step you will take to live out your "one word"?

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take steps to focus on the small things and live out your one word by reading and talking over the following Bible passages this week.

- ☐ **Day 1:** Zechariah 4:1-14
- ☐ **Day 2:** Isaiah 54:2
- ☐ **Day 3:** Hebrews 4:1-13
- ☐ **Day 4:** Matthew 25:14-30
- ☐ **Day 5:** Isaiah 43:19
- ☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 78:70-72
- ☐ **Day 7:** Philippians 4:13

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## SMALL THINGS BIG DIFFERENCE - PART 2 THOUGHTS

**MAIN IDEA:** Change your thinking by capturing destructive thoughts and then fixing your thoughts on spiritual things.

*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...* **Proverbs 23:7 NKJV**

### THOUGHT AUDIT

Worried	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Peaceful
Negative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Positive
Worldly	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Eternal

*Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.* **Romans 12:2 NLT**

### HOW DO YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK?

#### 1. CAPTURE DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHTS.

*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.* **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV**

#### 2. FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON SPIRITUAL THINGS.

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. <sup>9</sup>... Then the God of peace will be with you.*

**Philippians 4:8-9 NLT**

**MY ONE THOUGHT:** \_\_\_\_\_

*May all my thoughts be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.* **Psalms 104:34 NLT**

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## QUESTIONS

What destructive thoughts do you need to capture?

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How have your destructive thoughts affected you?

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What steps will you take to fix your thoughts on spiritual things?

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take steps to fix your thoughts on spiritual things and live out your one thought by reading and talking over the following Bible passages this week.

- ☐ **Day 1:** Proverbs 23:7
- ☐ **Day 2:** Romans 12:1-2
- ☐ **Day 3:** 2 Corinthians 10:1-6
- ☐ **Day 4:** Philippians 4:4-9
- ☐ **Day 5:** Psalm 104:33-34
- ☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 77:1-20
- ☐ **Day 7:** Philippians 3:18-21

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## SMALL THINGS BIG DIFFERENCE - PART 3 WORDS

**MAIN IDEA:** If you want to change the way you live, change the words you speak.

<sup>21</sup> *The tongue has the power of life and death...* **Proverbs 18:21**

<sup>3</sup> *We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.* **James 3:3-5 NLT**

<sup>18</sup> *The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.* **Proverbs 12:18**

<sup>4</sup> *The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.*  
**Proverbs 15:4**

### Life Taking Words

Others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Self	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### Life Giving Words

Others
Self

## LIFE-GIVING WORDS

1. IF YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING HELPFUL - **SKIP** IT.

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.* **Ephesians 4:29**

2. IF YOU THINK SOMETHING GOOD - **SAY** IT!

<sup>24</sup> *Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*  
**Proverbs 16:24**

*...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.* **1 Samuel 30:6 KJV**

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## MY ONE STATEMENT

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## QUESTIONS

How have you been affected by life-taking and life-giving words spoken to you?

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What life-giving words do you need to speak to yourself and others?

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take steps to start speaking more life-giving words to yourself and others by reading and talking over the following Bible passages this week.

- ☐ **Day 1:** James 3:1-12
- ☐ **Day 2:** Proverbs 18:21
- ☐ **Day 3:** Proverbs 12:18
- ☐ **Day 4:** Proverbs 15:4
- ☐ **Day 5:** Ephesians 4:29
- ☐ **Day 6:** Proverbs 16:24
- ☐ **Day 7:** Matthew 12:36-37

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## SMALL THINGS, BIG DIFFERENCE - PART 4 HABITS

**MAIN IDEA:** Discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want most.

### WHY AM I SO INCONSISTENT?

*<sup>15</sup> I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. <sup>18</sup> ... I want to do what is right, but I can't. <sup>19</sup> I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. <sup>20</sup> But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? <sup>25</sup> Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord...*

**Romans 7:15, 18-20, 24-25 NLT**

### TRAINING TO WIN WHAT MATTERS MOST

*<sup>24</sup> Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup> All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. **1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NLT***

*So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. <sup>27</sup> I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should... **1 Corinthians 9:26-27 NLT***

WHAT DO YOU WANT MOST?

MY ONE DISCIPLINE: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO **NOW** TO HAVE WHAT YOU WANT **MOST**?

## QUESTIONS

Where in life are you most lacking discipline?

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How has that affected you?

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What's the one thing you want most?

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What one discipline would you seek God to empower you to do right now to help you achieve what you want most?

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take your next steps to become more disciplined in your life by reading and talking over the following Bible passages this week.

- ☐ **Day 1:** Romans 7:7-25
- ☐ **Day 2:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
- ☐ **Day 3:** 1 Corinthians 9:26-27
- ☐ **Day 4:** Proverbs 25:28
- ☐ **Day 5:** Galatians 5:22-23
- ☐ **Day 6:** 2 Timothy 1:7
- ☐ **Day 7:** Titus 2:11-14