

Make More Happen

by John Isaac Edwards

The tagline of the office supply retailer Staples is, “**Make More Happen.**” This is a good motto for us, spiritually! Let me think with you about some areas in which we need to make more happen.

1) **More Desire For The Lord’s Word.** The Psalmist said of the righteous judgments of the Lord’s word, “**More** to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold...” (Ps. 19:10). When it comes to desire for the Lord’s word, we need to make more happen! A college student may pay \$300 or \$400 for a college textbook. How much would you be willing to pay for the Bible? It is worth much more than its weight in gold, and gold is valued at about \$1,200 an ounce in today’s economy! The Bible is able to do for us what no other book can — “...able to save your soul” (Jas. 1:21).

2) **More Praising God.** The Psalmist declared, “But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee **more** and **more**” (Ps. 71:14). Think of who the Lord is, and all that He has done! “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised...” (Ps. 48:1). The Hebrew writer penned, “...in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee” (Heb. 2:12). Again he wrote, “By him [that’s

Christ] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Heb. 13:15). Peter addressed scattered saints, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). Do you need to make more happen in this area of your life?

3) **More Ready To Hear.** Some are more ready to speak than they are to hear. How about us? Do we need to make more hearing happen? The preacher proclaimed, “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be **more** ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil” (Eccl. 5:1). Have you ever put your foot in your mouth? From the toes all the way up to the ankle, huh? By making more happen, this will be less likely to happen! Remember what James said along this line? “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...” (Jas. 1:19).

4) **More Praying.** Let’s make more happen with prayer!

Luke recorded about Jesus, “And being in an agony he prayed **more** earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Lk. 22:44). We sing, “Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day.” It is written, “...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas. 5:16). So, make more happen!

5) **More Fruit-Bearing.** The Lord expects us to be fruitful! We are married to Christ, “...that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Rom. 7:4). Jesus explained, “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth **more** fruit” (Jn. 15:2). When the Lord looks at us, does He see “...nothing but leaves...” (Mk. 11:13)? Make more happen! Be more productive.

6) **More Labour.** I like this statement Paul made as he considered himself “least of the apostles”: “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured **more** abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me” (1 Cor.

15:10). Paul's life was one of abundant labour! He reminded the Thessalonians, "For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God" (1 Th. 2:9). We need more labourers! "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Mt. 9:37-38). Now read and rub in some 1 Corinthians 15:58 ointment!

7) **More Love.** Paul's prayer for the Philippians included, "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet **more** and **more...**" (Phil. 1:9). To the Thessalonians he said of love, "...that ye increase more and more" (1 Th. 4:10). In other words, "**Make More Happen!**" When it comes to love for God (Mt. 22:37), our neighbour (Mt. 22:39), husbands, wives and children (Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4), the truth (2 Th. 2:10), and the brethren (1 Pet. 1:22), make more happen!

8) **More Pleasing God.** Who are you trying to please in

life? Yourself? Romans 15:3 reads, "For even Christ pleased not himself..." If Christ, the Son of God, didn't please Himself, then who am I to think I'll just do what pleases me? Trying to please men? Galatians 1:10 asks, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound **more** and **more**" (1 Th. 4:1). The greatest achievement of mankind will not be to have won a grammy or an oscar, but to have pleased God! Where's Enoch? (Heb. 11:5).

Now, make more happen!

Q & A

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"I'm more interested whether the obligation to the individual to meet children's needs are equal across the board or, if the church gets credit for the action of the one who adopts the kid. IOW's can Bro. Jones never adopt or do anything to

meet the child's needs, but get credit for meeting Jam 1:27 (tho he personally never does) b/c Bro. Smith does, and the both hold the same doctrine and worship together?"

A reading of James one shows the individual is under consideration. Verse 27 itself shows this to be the case. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." What's true of visiting is true of keeping unspotted. "Is the obligation to keep unspotted from the world equal across the board? Does the church get credit for the action of one who keeps himself unspotted? IOW's can Bro. Jones never practice pure religion or do anything to keep himself unspotted, but get credit for meeting Jam. 1:27 (tho he personally never does) b/c Bro. Smith does, and they both hold the same doctrine and worship together?" Paul wrote, "...every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour" (1 Cor. 3:8). The judgment scene in Matthew 25:31-46 shows this to be the case.

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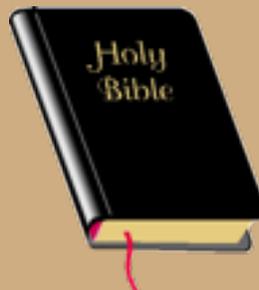
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