

Jesus Isn't Someone I Use to Get My Plans Accomplished; He's Someone I Submit to so That His Plans Will Be Accomplished

1st Step – Lesson 2

Step 1: “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.” In other words, I'm admitting...

- I don't have the plan.
- None of my life management plans work. That includes trying to use God to get my plans accomplished.

Daniel 3:16-18 – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

“Jesus said to the church in Ephesus in Revelation 2:3 and 4, *'You persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary, **yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen.**'* Jesus is begging us here not to get so caught up on how well we are doing that we forget about *Him!!* That's easy to do!! Can you imagine people you adore looking at you as someone who would rather have them follow your rules than to *be* with you? Can you imagine those people getting so excited about actually doing what they need to do that they forget about you? Jesus Christ faces this torment everyday! The disciples were filled with joy when they were given powers to cast out demons. Jesus told them that, indeed, He saw Satan falling from the sky when that happened. *However*, in Luke 10:18 He said, *'Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, **but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**'* I'm so thankful Jesus wants me to be *with* Him more than He wants me to do *for* Him! What a relief! I really love Him for that because some days I don't have any energy to even ask Him for *His* energy to get me through the day.” – Pam Merten

1. What kind of life management plans have you tried to use? (“I'll count my drinks, the way a dieter counts calories, to get my drinking under control.” “If I turn my life over to God he'll make my obsessions go away.”)
2. God's ultimate goal for your life is that you receive his love. Have your life goals been different from God's?
3. What happens when you quit obsessing with your plans for your life and start seeking and accepting God's plans?