

All In
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The Christian life isn't *supposed* to "work" unless you are living it "All-in."

Jeremiah 29:13

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Matt 19:16-30 (NIV)

¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

¹⁷ "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ "Which ones?" he inquired.

Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony,¹⁹ honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁰ "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

Why "Trying God" Doesn't Work

1. It comes to "get" from God, not "be" with God

- Matt. 19:16 – "What must I do to get..."

2. It tries to do the minimum

- Matt. 19:17-18 - "If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.

¹⁸ **Which ones?**"

- **Deut 6:4-5**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

3. It holds on to things more than God

- Matt. 19:20 – "I've kept all these. What else do I lack?"

Matt. 19:21-22

²¹ Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Matt 19:27

“We have left everything to follow you!”

Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

How to Live All-In (as demonstrated by the 12 Disciples)

1. They believed who He was

- **Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

2. They remembered what He’d done

3. They did what He said

4. They trusted Him to provide

John 6:67-69 (AMP)

So Jesus said to the twelve [disciples], “You do not want to leave too, do you?”⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You [alone] have the words of eternal life [you are our only hope]. ⁶⁹ We have believed and confidently trusted, and [even more] we have come to know [by personal observation and experience] that You are the Holy One of God [the Christ, the Son of the living God].

The All-In believer . . .

Believes

Remembers

Does

Trusts

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Have you made a commitment to, or an attempt at, something that just “didn’t work”? What was it?
2. In the most practical terms you can, discuss as a group what it means to be “all-in” to a relationship with Jesus. If there was a spectrum with “Trying God” at one end and “All-in” at the opposite end, where would you put yourself?
3. “Trying God” was never meant to be a successful endeavor, any more than a taste-test is meant to fully satisfy hunger. Discuss as a group the factors that might cause a person to limit his/her commitment to God. How can we move forward if we’ve been held back?
4. Review the four ways the disciples “left everything” to follow Jesus. (Luke 5:1-11) Discuss as a group how each of these four ways can be fleshed out in our lives. Which one of the four ways of following Jesus is most needed in your life in this season?

Spend some time discussing ways to implement these in your lives, and pray for one another about moving from “trying God” to being “All-in.”