

WHAT IS THE MAIN THING?

Part 1 of THE GOSPEL WAY

The Cornerstone Youth Group. February 4, 2026.

THE APOSTLES' CREED: WE BELIEVE

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The one, holy, catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.

Amen.

ONE QUESTION, SO MANY ANSWERS

A famous author wrote, “The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.”¹ What do you think he meant?

If you answered that we need to focus on what matters most, you are on the right track.

It’s easy to miss the main thing. It’s common to chase the wrong things in life; we think something will lead to success, but it ends up hurting us.

BUT ... how do we know what the main thing is?

COMPETING IDEAS

Life is full of competing ideas about what is real, true, and good. For example, people believe that:

- There is no God unless it is us. We’re in charge, and we decide our identity, purpose, and morality.
- I am the main thing. I rule my life.
- The main thing is something like sports, money, grades, friends, work, popularity, or whatever.

The Christian, biblical perspective does not support the above ideas. Moreover, history has repeatedly shown that making them the primary focus often harms us.

¹ The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen R. Covey

GOD IS THE MAIN THING

The Bible teaches that God is the main thing. He must be the central focus. Living as a Christian means making God the priority in our lives.

How do the following Bible passages support the idea that God is the main thing?

Genesis 1:1 (CSB) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:26 (CSB) Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.

Genesis 1:28 (CSB) God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.

Genesis 2:15 (CSB) The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

Colossians 1:16 (CSB) For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through him and for him.

Acts 17:28 (CSB) For in him we live and move and have our being,

Romans 11:36 (CSB) For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness.

LIVING FOR GOD AS THE MAIN THING

How can we live as if God is the main thing?

1. **Believe it.** Begin by believing he is the main thing. Are you convinced? What are some ways to know you truly believe it? How does Jesus come into this?

2. **Pray it.** The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is a great example of making God the main thing:

- We acknowledge him: Our Father in heaven.
- We worship him: Your name be honored as holy.
- We put him first: Your kingdom come, your will be done.
- We ask for forgiveness for not living as if he were the main thing: Forgive us our debts (sins).
- We ask him to meet our needs: Give us our daily bread.
- We ask him to guide and protect us: Do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

3. **Live it.** Every day is a series of choices: what time to get up, what to think about, what to wear, what words to speak, how to treat people, what tasks to do first, where to go, who to spend time with. Make each choice in light of believing that God is the main thing.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (CSB) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.