

# LIVING WATER

The Official Newsletter of Southside Church of Christ

## SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

by Taylor Hogland

Anna Pavlova, the Russian prima ballerina and the first to tour around the world, is credited with the following statement:

***“To follow, without halt, one aim: there is the secret to success.”***

Many individuals have written entire books full of similar remarks, but hers is one of my favorites on account of its simplicity. Pavlova brilliantly expresses a universal truth in succinct fashion: *that lasting success can only come from singularity of purpose.*

However, though Pavlova said it well, she did not say it first; Jesus had much to say about this, too.

On his famous “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus put it this way:

***“...seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matt 6:33)***

“**All these things**” refers to the things that so often rob us of our full attention; things that we worry about and chase after, yet things that ultimately distract us from the “one aim” that we ought to be following.

And what is that “one aim”? It is, in a word, **God — His kingdom, His righteousness, His will, His word, ad infinitum!** It means to submit every other whim, every other desire, every other goal to the “one aim” that matters. So many times we fail in this pursuit simply because our aim is not one; we spread ourselves thin across an array of disjointed pursuits, and we lack the simple and unified devotion of a single-hearted servant. This is a recipe for needless stress and constant failure, as many of us have found. To remedy this, Jesus calls us away from the **trivial** and points us at the **essence**; he teaches us to ignore the **temporary** and pursue the **eternal!**

The wonderful promise that Jesus makes here (“*all these things will be added to you*”) assures us that, if we render this unswerving service to God, He will meet our every need. This is a remarkable promise, and it is not only the Christian’s “secret to success”, it is also the secret to **“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding”** (Phil 4:7). Often we inflict anxiety upon ourselves by trying to do everything all at once; Jesus teaches us that the solution is to commit ourselves to God entirely and trust that He will provide the things that we need.

I hope that this serves as a brief reminder of something we (myself especially) so often forget. May we all seek first the kingdom of God with the singularity of purpose of our Lord and Savior!