

***The Power of One***  
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***Introduction:*** How can I know the essence of who I am?

- A. We can keep our minds away from self-examination by staying in the “clutter.”
  - 1. There will be times where our essence will be seen. The Lord will help us to peel away self-deception and let us see and then change. **(2 Cor 13:5)**
  - 2. The prodigal son was blessed by an abject failure that gave him sight. **(Lk 15:17-18)**
- B. There is a great blessing when we allow the Lord to mold us throughout life.
  - 1. God will allow us to face difficult times in a way to glorify God.
  - 2. The world will notice our response of faith. If we could respond to evil as Jesus did, then we could be a great blessing to others. **(1 Pt 2:11-12)**
  - 3. We all have been blessed with such people in our lives.

***I. There will be times where we must act alone***

- A. Conversion is such a time. **(Lk 9:23-24)**
  - 1. Salvation is personal. No one can do it for you.
  - 2. Many theories have been put forth where personal conversion is denied.
  - 3. Anything short of a living personal faith makes Jesus sick. **(Rev 3:15-16)**
- B. Leaving a religious group. **(Phil 3:8-9)**
- C. The Lord wants us to prepare for the judgement day! **(2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:12)**
  - 1. Have you given thought to this day? It will change how we live!
  - 2. “You gotta walk that lonesome valley, You gotta walk it by yourself, Oh nobody else can walk it for you, You gotta walk it by yourself.”
  - 3. This faith will allow ourselves to stand alone when others flee!
  - 4. I want to build such a faith is others. It must be your own!

***II. We in reality will never be alone***

- A. Jesus tried to prepare His apostles for the coming storm. **(Jn 16:32-33)**
  - 1. Jesus knew He would be forsaken and left alone by men.
  - 2. At this very time He would show all that God was with Him.
- B. Paul had occasions where he faced trials alone. **(2 Tim 4:16-17)**
  - 1. He had the Lord and all was well.
  - 2. There were other brethren that would stand with him but not at that place and moment. He did not write off all brethren.
- C. Elijah stood alone before a great multitude. **(1 Kings 18:19-21)**
  - 1. He fought a day long battle to convince people that he should not have had to.
  - 2. Even when the people jumped on the “winning side” he was not impressed. **(1 Kings 19:10, 14; Jn 2:23-25)**
  - 3. Even among Israel Elijah was not alone! **(1 Kings 19:18)**
  - 4. Paul was reminded of this at a fearful time. **(Acts 18:9-11)**

### **III. The Power of One**

- A. You are blessed when you stand alone by faith.
  - 1. Your faith in God will be clearer and what is really important is seen.
  - 2. God will respond in this life! **(Mt 11:27-30)**
- B. Others will be encouraged to stand and face adversity.
  - 1. Military history is filled with examples: Stonewall Jackson and George Washington.
  - 2. My parents often taught and showed me how to stand against popular opinion.
- C. Esther's stand before the king. **(Esther 4:13-14)**
  - 1. She could have reasoned: "Let someone else do it". Mordecai reminded her of the providence of God.
  - 2. She could have thought that God would save her people anyway. True, but what would be the consequences for her?
- D. Joseph's purity and faith under difficult circumstances.
  - 1. Joseph has every opportunity to compromise. He could have said that God has forsaken him, but he would have been wrong.
  - 2. Joseph was faithful and as a result after years of suffering he saw the fruit of his faith. **(Gen. 50:19-20)**
  - 3. Ex. A young Christian in Centerpoint who dated a girl in 1972.

### **IV. The failure of one can have powerful consequences**

- A. Balaam the prophet gave in to covetousness. **(2 Peter 2:15-16)**
  - 1. It is amazing what "reasoning" people will engage in to justify their sin.
  - 2. Sadly, in Balaam's case he finally joined the other side. **(Rev 2:14)**
- B. Achan's "small" sin had great consequences! **(Josh 7:1, 5, 20-21, 24)**
  - 1. Sin is self-centered and does not think of others.
  - 2. Never believe that my sin "will not harm others."
- C. Parents who quit when their children depart from the Lord. **(Eph 6:4)**
  - 1. How do we handle the pain of a child leaving the Lord?
  - 2. Your child needs to see your life following the words you instilled!

### **V. We should stand together so that no one must stand alone!**

- A. Being alone is not the ideal place! **(Ecc 4:9-12)**
  - 1. God knows this and has provided a local church.
  - 2. We must draw closer to each other. If you find yourself pulling apart from Christians, you are in a dangerous place. **(Heb 10:23-25; 32-33)**
- B. Moses' willingness to give up short term pleasure for suffering with the people of God. **(Heb 11:24-27)**
  - 1. Let us become courageous and stand with the one or the few!
  - 2. Apostasy is driven by cowardice. Many fear labels and will abandon principle because it is "small and insignificant." Foundations are destroyed in time.

**Conclusion:** A better world begins with me – maybe I need to become "just one!"