



## The Little Things

### By Dr. Gregory Wiens

In the master bathroom of our house there are four holes in the wall that have been patched with drywall filler. When we moved into the home over three years ago, Mary Kay said the toilet paper dispenser was too far away and asked that I move it closer to the toilet, so I did. I quickly drilled four new holes and moved the dispenser and filled the old holes. I sanded them and got them ready to paint. It's been three years, and they still need to be painted! Every day when we use this bathroom, we see these holes, but we don't see them...we have simply learned to no longer notice the four small patches of white on the dark brown paint.

I am really not that bad of a fix-it guy, so I let projects like this linger. However, it is easy to allow small things to remain un-addressed in areas of our lives. We become comfortable with things being unfinished or not normal and we just go on living our lives without seeing the problem this can produce.

We all have little idiosyncrasies that should be dealt with but have become comfortable with them in our lives.

- Maybe it is the way you handle yourself when you are threatened or angry that isn't healthy.
- Maybe it is how you deal or don't deal with conflict that isn't quite finished.
- Maybe it is taking time to slow down and restore yourself that will eventually trip you up.
- Maybe it is watching too much TV or eating too much junk food that causes you to lose your physical conditioning.
- Maybe it is holding grudges that you should have forgiven long ago that eat you up inside.
- Maybe it is shoving your feelings down instead of expressing them appropriately that keeps you uptight.
- Maybe it is your thought life that no one else but you sees that keeps your focus from where it should be.
- Maybe it is the negative things you constantly tell yourself that keeps your attitude less than positive.

There are a myriad of little things that seem relatively harmless to those around you and maybe even to yourself after time because we simply get used to them; like the holes in my bathroom wall.

We all have these little areas in our lives where we never followed through on what we were supposed to do. Normally, these areas are not a major issue, but they can be

footholds that the enemy uses at the most inopportune times. The New Testament talks about footholds at least five times (*Ephesians 4.27, 1 Corinthians 7.5, 2 Corinthians 2.11, 1 Timothy 5.14-15 & James 4.1-7*). As I have written elsewhere these often start off as little areas of little consequence.

After all, Satan is called the angel of light (*2 Corinthians 11.14*) because he appears to be someone or something good; at least not harmful. But these little areas can become major character issues or stumbling blocks at a critical time in our lives. And the enemy knows when to pull the trigger on these and other footholds.

In a recent conversation with my coach, he told me that I tend to polarize people when it is not necessary. Of course, as he talked about the specific situation we were talking about, I justified the need in this specific example...but as we hung up the phone I realized he was right. I do have a need to polarize people, which may not be healthy, and if it is not addressed, it could be used by the enemy to destroy Kingdom work.

Let me again encourage you to have the kind of relationship through a coach or another who does speak these kinds of things into your life. If no one does speak thus into your life, don't think it is because you are perfect, none of us is. It is because you have not opened your life to another in a way that there is freedom, transparency and exposure for this kind of conversation to take place.

We all must remain committed to the expansion of the Kingdom of God through God working in and through our lives. It can be painful, but isn't your effectiveness in the Kingdom worth the pain?