

A high-angle, first-person perspective shot of a person's feet wearing black and yellow sneakers, standing on a blue metal grate. The background shows a blurred cityscape with buildings and greenery. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered over the image, containing the text "#YOLO" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

#YOLO

About Us

Sometimes we just need to pause, take a step back, and ask the obvious “Why?” —Why am I here? What’s my purpose?

Join us at YMI, an initiative of Our Daily Bread Ministries, as we question the reason behind why we do, think, and feel what we do.



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Credits

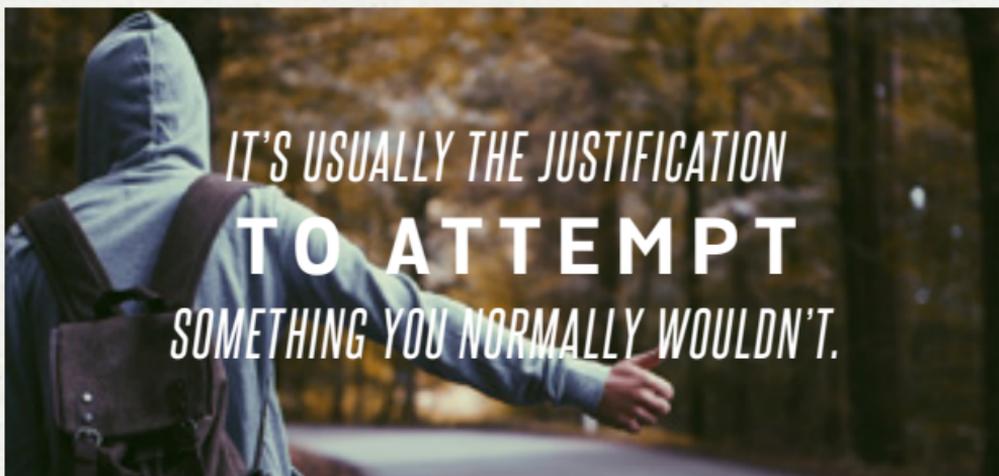
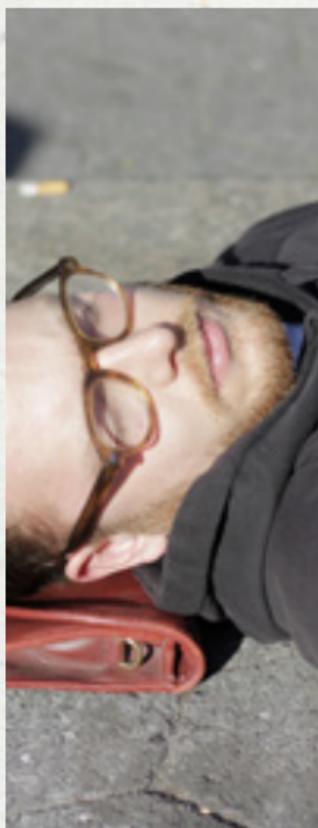
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#overused





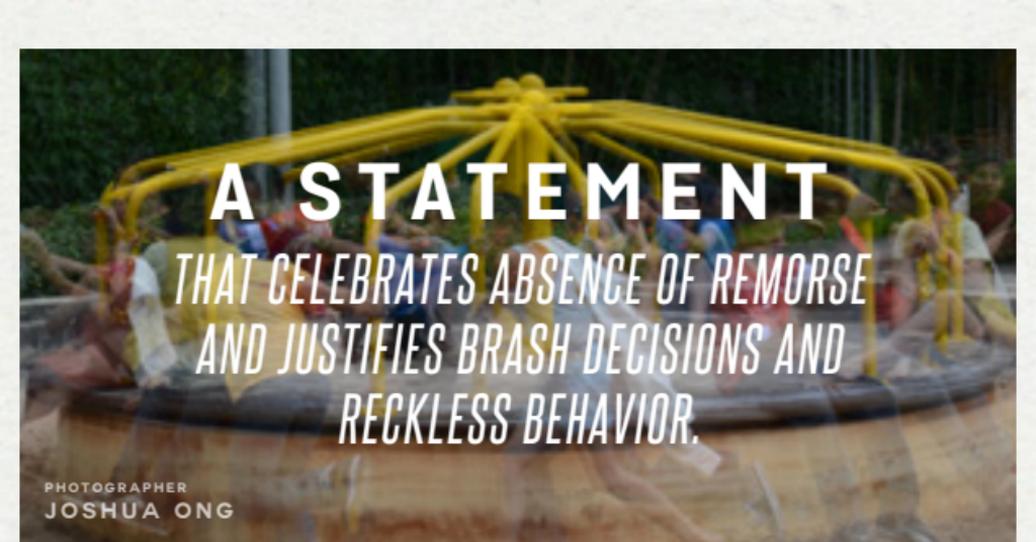
IT'S USUALLY THE JUSTIFICATION
TO ATTEMPT
SOMETHING YOU NORMALLY WOULDN'T.

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE.

What do these four words conjure in your mind: brevity, adventure, or, possibly, recklessness?

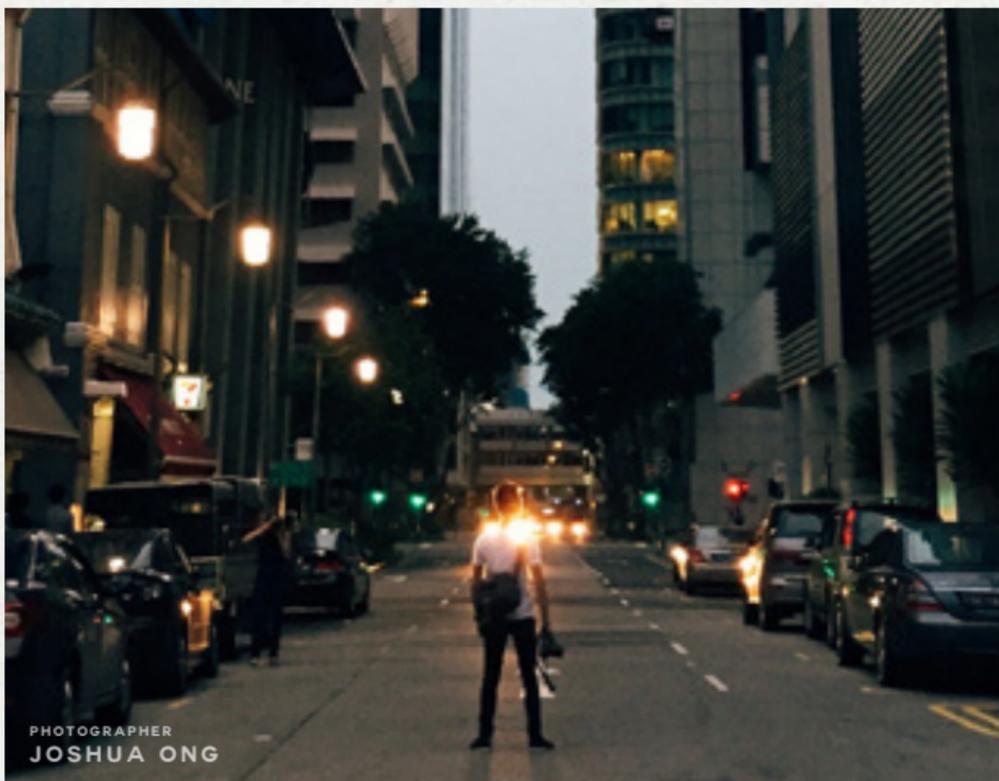
For users of this expression—more commonly known by the ubiquitous acronym YOLO—it's usually the justification to attempt something you normally wouldn't. Since it was catapulted into the social spotlight by Canadian rapper Drake's 2011 song, "The Motto," this popular acronym has found its way into articles, talk shows, merchandise, and social media. It has even left a permanent mark in some circles (actor Zac Efron got a tattoo of it on his hand and Oxford Dictionaries made it an official word sometime in 2014). Even US head of state President Obama used the word in a 2015 viral BuzzFeed video encouraging people to enroll for healthcare insurance.

If you find YOLO and its meaning familiar, that's probably because it is. Like its forbears *Carpe Diem* ("Seize the Day"), *Just Do It*, and *C'est La Vie* ("That's Life"), this two-syllable, four-letter term implies enjoying life to the fullest, even if it involves taking risks.



A STATEMENT
*THAT CELEBRATES ABSENCE OF REMORSE
AND JUSTIFIES BRASH DECISIONS AND
RECKLESS BEHAVIOR.*

PHOTOGRAPHER
JOSHUA ONG



RISE TO INFAMY

But YOLO's meteoric rise to infamy is likely due to its grungier reputation as a statement that celebrates absence of remorse and justifies brash decisions and reckless behavior. The catchy acronym has come under heavy criticism, most notably after aspiring rapper Ervin McKinness tweeted the phrase, "Drunk [after] going 120 drifting corners #[expletive]YOLO," minutes before dying in a horrific car crash with four others (it was later reported that he was not the one behind the wheel as initially thought). One article by Huffington Post referred to it as the "worst 'word' of 2012" and pleaded with its readers to help in the "disappearance of YOLO in 2013."

But we all know that YOLO, although less commonly used now, has not disappeared completely. Even if it does, its ideology will probably emerge in some other form, as another clever acronym, image, or meme—for at the heart of YOLO is the perennial belief that this life is all that there is to existence, so we can do what we like and spare no thought for the consequences.

"WORST 'WORD' OF 2012"

- Huffington Post

RELAX,

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a pillow with a white and grey wavy pattern. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

STOP TAKING THIS ACRONYM TOO SERIOUSLY,

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair drinking from a white mug. She has her eyes closed and a peaceful expression. The lighting is warm and soft.

YOU MAY BE THINKING...

A photograph of a man in a dark suit and brown hat performing a parkour move. He is in mid-air, with one leg extended and arms outstretched, as if jumping over a wall or ledge. The background shows a modern building with many windows.

PHOTOGRAPHER
JOSHUA ONG

EXAMINING YOLO

Relax, stop taking this acronym too seriously, you may be thinking. After all, most people who take YOLO to heart don't end up losing their lives or harming others. Are we being overly sensitive and jittery about its influence?

Even if most treat it as a joke, there's probably still some value in examining the assumptions it makes about life. Do we really only live once? And if we do, is YOLO the right or even the best way of looking at how to spend our lives?

Most of us agree that we will live out our lives on this Earth and then inevitably die. We usually don't get to choose how and when we die, just as we didn't decide how and when we were born. It's what happens afterwards that is contentious (think annihilation, reincarnation, and judgment).

To provide some answers, may I suggest that we investigate the claims of a book which millions have revered, followed, and in some cases given their lives defending—the Bible.

**ARE WE BEING OVER SENSITIVE AND
JITTERY ABOUT ITS INFLUENCE?**





IT'S
WONDERFUL
*TO BE YOUNG. ENJOY EVERY
MINUTE OF IT*

...



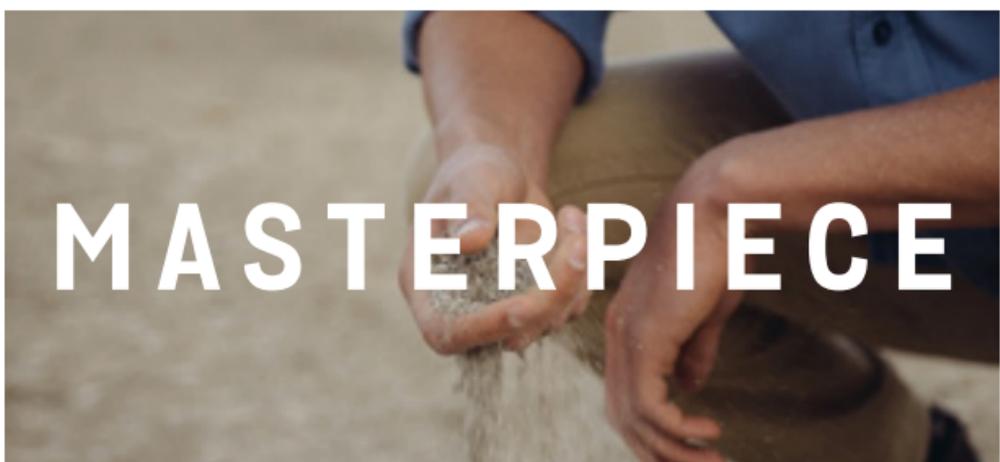
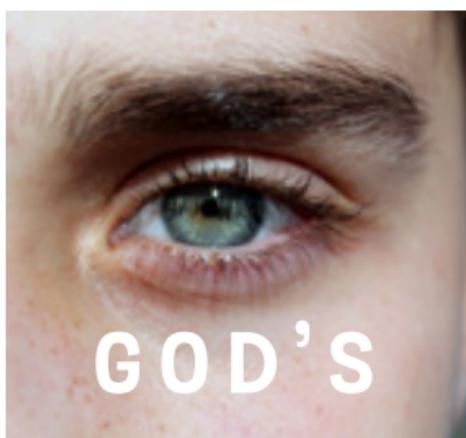
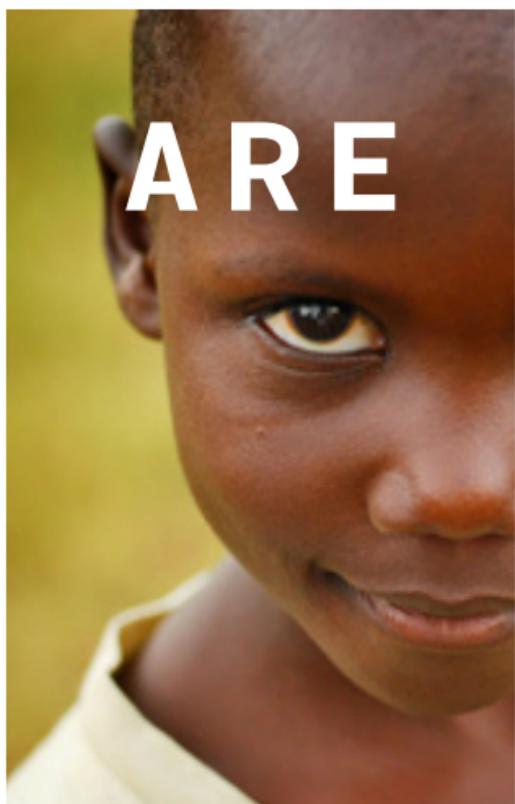
DEATH IS A RITE OF PASSAGE

In this best-selling book, penned by some 40 different authors over a span of more than 1,000 years, death is painted as a rite of passage for all living things, whether human, animal, or plant. All human beings will die once, and thereafter be called to account for all they have done in life—including acts done in secret—to a perfectly holy and just creator. As the Bible says, “Young people, it’s wonderful to be young. Enjoy every minute of it . . . But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do” (Ecclesiastes 11:9). This means that, contrary to the carefree attitude represented by YOLO, how we live our one earthly life has consequences, both now and for eternity.

Furthermore, the Bible tells us that God has created each of us for a specific and intended purpose. He knows best how we can live our one life to the fullest—by believing in and following Jesus Christ. It says, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago” (Ephesians 2:10).

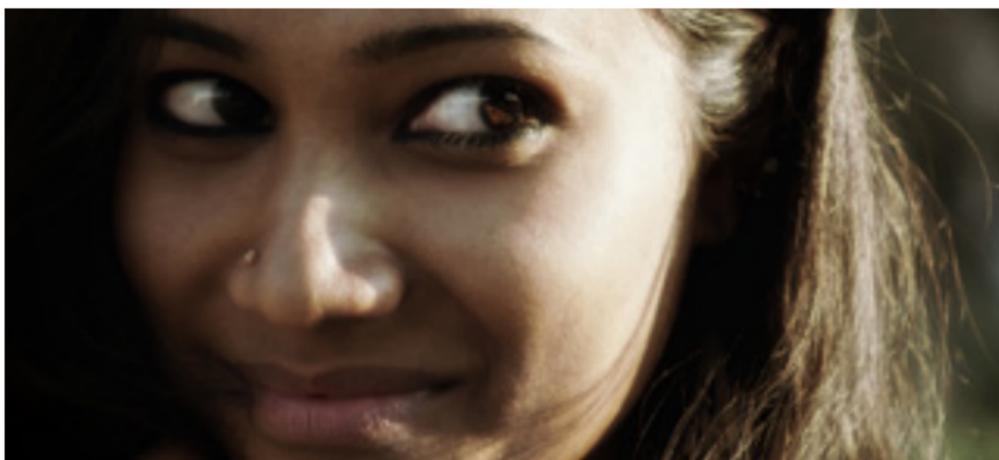
**HOW WE LIVE OUR ONE
EARTHLY LIFE HAS CONSEQUENCES...**





A close-up photograph of two hands, one larger and one smaller, holding a piece of wood. The hands are positioned as if they are working on a craft or construction project. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface.

“FOR WE ARE GOD’S
MASTERPIECE. HE HAS CREATED
US ANEW IN CHRIST JESUS, SO
WE CAN DO THE GOOD THINGS
HE PLANNED FOR US LONG AGO”
(EPHESIANS 2:10).



IMAGINE
TRYING
TO NAVIGATE
AN UNFAMILIAR
AREA WITHOUT A MAP

...



Imagine trying to navigate an unfamiliar area without a map, compass, or directions—you would be hard pressed to find your way. Many people live life in this fashion, drifting aimlessly and flitting from one diversion to another—after all, YOLO. God, on the other hand, offers to be our guide and teacher on this journey through life. He provides us with a clear direction and goal—living life as He intended for us to do, and receiving His acceptance afterwards—and accompanies us every step of the way. The Bible reads, “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us” (Acts 17:27).

If the Bible is right, we will not only discover how to live life well, but gain hope that our existence is meaningful—as Jesus said, “My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life” (John 10:10).

**MANY PEOPLE LIVE LIFE IN THIS
FASHION, DRIFTING AIMELESSLY...**





"ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST

...



...ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST."



WHAT NOW?

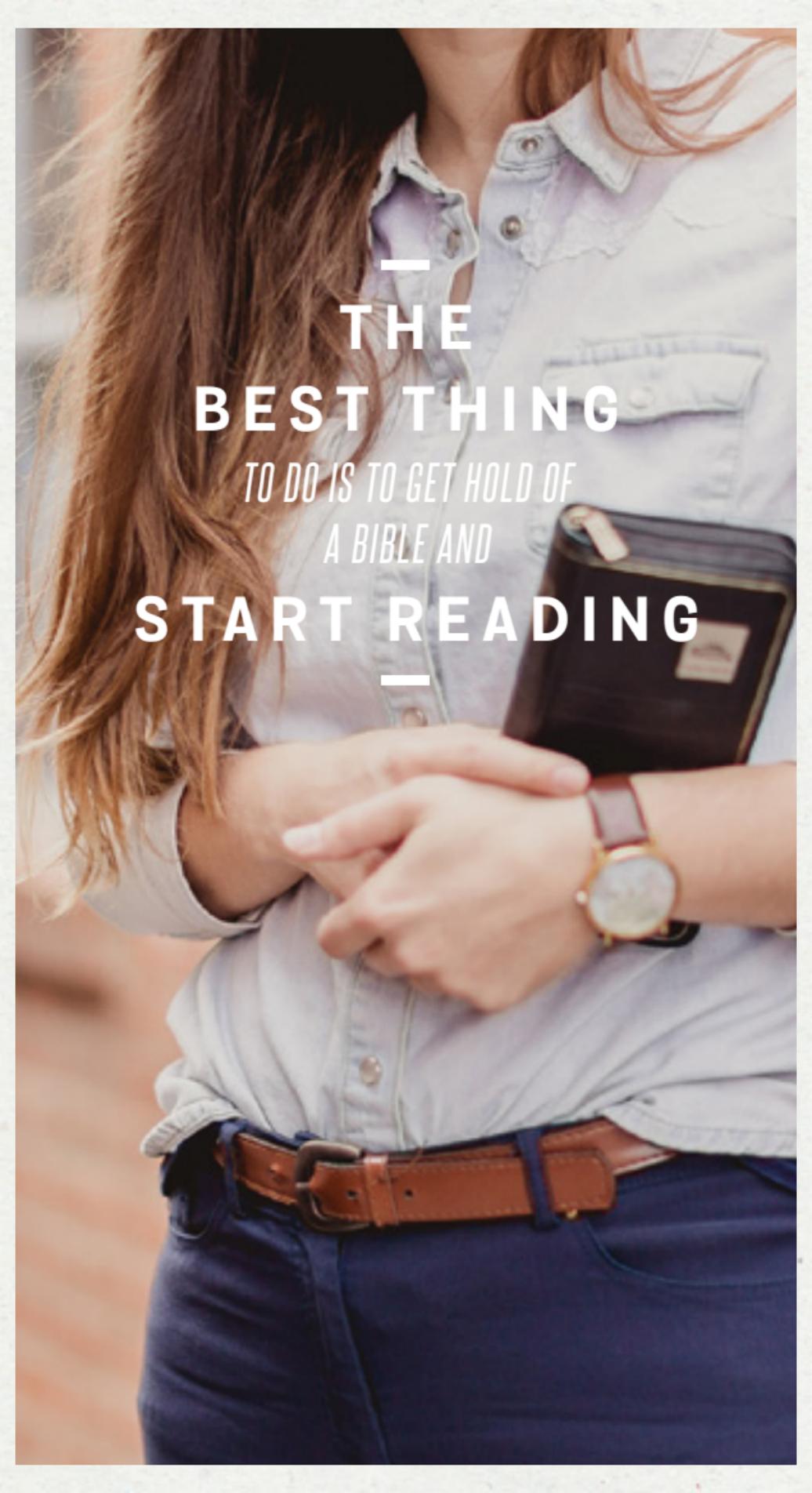
While the Bible does concur with YOLO on the brevity of our earthly life, it also challenges us not to waste it, because death is just the beginning, not the end. You get one pass at life. That's it, just one. Have you lived it well?

Perhaps we really need to consider how we can live our lives with true purpose and joy, rather than empty recklessness. And what better authority is there on how to live than the God who created everything? A life lived following Jesus Christ, no matter how brief, builds a lasting legacy—as C. T. Studd writes, “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.”

After all, you only live once. If you have to take a risk, why not take a risk with Jesus?

**YOU GET ONE PASS
AT LIFE. THAT'S IT,
JUST ONE.
HAVE YOU LIVED IT WELL?**





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THE
BEST THING
TO DO IS TO GET HOLD OF
A BIBLE AND
START READING
—

Hopefully these words have helped you think a bit deeper about life. If you have been challenged to think further about the Christian faith or Jesus Christ, the best thing to do is to get hold of a Bible and start reading. We also encourage you to make contact with your local church to receive additional help with any questions you might have.

**YOU CAN ALSO
CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT**

WWW.YMI.TODAY

**AND DISCOVER MANY OTHER
DIGITAL RESOURCES WE HAVE
AVAILABLE FOR YOU!**



RELEVANT
&
INSPIRING
CONTENT

YMI (Why Am I?), a part of Our Daily Bread Ministries, is all about Christian young people making God's word known through their God-given talents.

We exist so that God's Word will be shared from one young person to another.

Write to us at: contribute@ymi.today

WWW.YMI.TODAY



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