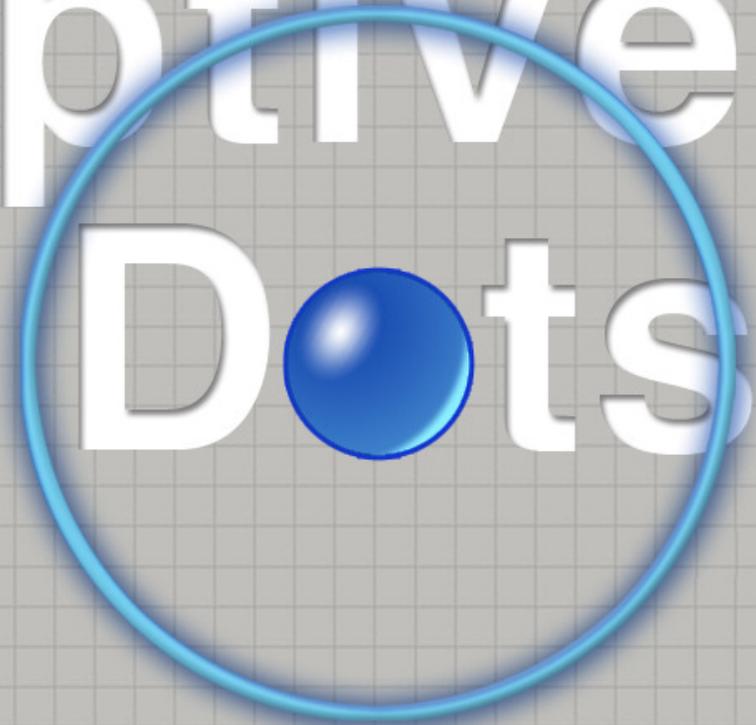




Deceptive

Dots



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Remember always that human need is infinite, and that the number five bears the same relationship to infinity as does the number five million. Therefore, wise persons are going to make conscious decisions that have a qualitative impact on infinity rather than a quantitative one.

Telling ourselves we're hugely stressed makes us feel important, in demand, even energized; it also gives us permission to avoid confronting deeper issues.

Oliver Burkeman

Busyness is the perfect excuse: if you're convinced that you're overstretched and overwhelmed, you're spared the terrifying prospect of actually doing the things, and making the changes, that you want.

Oliver Burkeman

JOHN 17:20-23

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their doorsteps, play ball, throw water, and be known as someone who wants to live with them. It is a privilege to have the time to practice this simple ministry of presence. Still, it is not as simple as it seems.

My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets.

It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress. But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them.

Henri Nouwen

**The following slides are formatted
without backgrounds for printing**

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