



**Digging Deep**

**January 19, 2016**

**Theme: God of Wonders**

**Topic: "Preparation for wonders – Avoid distractions"**

**Text: Philippians 3:13-17; Hebrews 12:1-2**

**Introduction:** In our previous teachings, we have looked at Preparations for wonders – Sanctification prerequisite which is the need for believers to be holy and set apart for God; and only Believe. Today, we will be looking at avoid distractions – some distractions in the lives of believer and how to overcome them. There are many distractions that believers face on the way to receiving miracle and wonders from God. It is important to avoid the distractions and walk uprightly before God and keep our focus on Him.

**What is distraction?** Distraction is an act of having thoughts and attention drawn away (from cause). It hinders one from keeping our focus. It is what we allow into our lives that can distract us from God. In order for believers to avoid distractions that may be hindrance to receiving the wonders of God, we will need to be determined to look away from the distractions and partner with God.

### **Some distractions to avoid**

- Sin (Heb. 12:1) - sin could develop from thoughts, words and actions. The bible state "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). If the thoughts of our heart are angry, lustful, jealous, hate, murmur etc., then it is an indication of whom we are (Matt. 15:10-11). As believers we must strive to keep our thoughts pure and in line with the word of God (Prov. 4:23, Phil. 4:8). Let us not forget that disobedience to God's words and commands is sin.
- Temptations: .....God will always make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it... (I Corin. 10:13; Matt.4:1-11)
- Self, ourselves - By nature we are sinful, and will not get close to God if we live by our nature (I John 2:16). We will need to die to ourselves and live in Christ (Rom. 6:11). There is need for self-examination (2 Corin. 13:5)
- Worry/Anxiety/Fear - Stop storing up treasures for yourselves on earth....(Matt. 6:19-21; 31-33)
- Satan - the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (I Pet. 5:8). Submit yourself unto the Lord, but resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7)
- Pressure/Worldly affairs/Challenges of life - Rom. 12:2; I John 2:15; Matt. 14:28-31)
- Spending time on God's work and not with God. When we focus more on doing things for God and lose the zeal for God (Rev. 2:3-4; Luke 10:38-42)
- Add to the list (? Technology.....)

### **How to avoid or overcome distractions?**

- Be determined to keep focus on God: Determination is the key to avoid or overcome distractions. Be deliberate to overcome sin, watch and pray. Satan never likes progress so he

always try to stop it (John 10:10). But God is always at hand to help (Ps. 46:1-2). God will only help you if you are determined to avoid distraction.

- Prioritize your time (have a time to seek God in prayer daily. Make best use of your time because the times are evil (Eph. 5:15-16). Spend time in prayer for supernatural (wonders) blessing to take effect. Remember whatever you allowed on earth is allowed in heaven.
- b. Stop everything and go to a quiet place to hear from God (Mark 6:31)
- c. Focus on God by studying and meditating on His word (Josh. 1:8)
- d. Don't allow others to distract us from the Lord..... Or am I trying to please people. If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal. 1:10)

Some examples:

Moses at the Red Sea, (Ex. 14:15)

David faced Goliath, (I Sam. 17:28-30).

Elisha (I Kings 1:19-21; 2 Kings 2:2-7).

The blind Bartimaeus, (Mark 10:46-52)

Add to list....

**2. Partner with God:** Only you can allow distraction to stop you from receiving your wonders and moving forward. When you partner with God, there is no distraction (demonic, human) that can stop you (Rom. 8: 31,35-39). There is no enemy however strong that can resist the Almighty God. God will arise and scatter or melt the enemy (Ps. 68:1-3). God will rise up against enemies and they will flee in seven ways. God is unchangeable – He can do the wonders, He has promised and has the will to do it again if only you will be determined to partner with Him and avoid distraction that may hinder your receiving your wonder from God. You need faith to walk with God and every obstacle or distraction will end up becoming a testimony (Mark. 11:22-23). The decision to stop walking is yours alone. Majority may be wrong but you have to fix (focus) your heart to keep moving / walking forward till you receiving the promise (wonder).

Some Examples:

Elijah and prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:21-40)

Paul the Apostle was determined to die with Christ, (Acts 21:8-14)

Add to list..

**Conclusion:** The decision to stop before you reach your goal (receive your wonder) is yours alone. You need to be determined to avoid distraction and partner with God so that you can receive your wonders. Distraction from God is extremely dangerous. So Avoid Distractions!!!

Prayer: In the name of Jesus I come against all distractions hindering my miracle (wonders) from God. Father pls. help me keep my focus on you alone; sensitize my spirit not to allow distraction in my life. Father, give me the grace to obey your words and commands in Jesus name.