

## Where is your Focus?

When we buy a car, we are purchasing something that has been designed by an engineer and assembled directly or indirectly by the hands of man. That car is designed to perform, but that performance is directly related to man's intervention. Man is responsible for filling it with gas, changing in the oil and maintaining it. He is also responsible for the safety of its operation. If it breaks down we really can't blame any of the malfunction or defects on the vehicle itself. We can call it a lemon or a piece of junk, but ultimately, the car itself had nothing to do with anything concerning its performance or upkeep. Everything concerning that car depends directly or indirectly upon man.

Let's take that same thought and apply it to ourselves. We are disappointed in ourselves when we fail to perform up to our expectations. We get frustrated with circumstances, and despise our weaknesses. We blame ourselves, or we point our fingers at others. We immediately place the focus on what we need to do, or on what others need to do in order to fix or alleviate the situation. We put pressure on ourselves This is exactly what the enemy would have us to do because we are no different than the car! Of ourselves, we can do nothing! It seems like a cop out not to direct the focus to self but the real answer has to come from a different source.

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Who made us? Is it a surprise to God when we are weak? He made us to depend upon Him.

**Psalms 139:14** we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

**2-4 God** knows everything about us and He is not disappointed in us, nor is he surprised that we can't do anything without his help.

Where is our confidence? Is it in ourselves, or is it in the power of God that works within us?

**2Corinthians 4:7** *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10** We are His workmanship.

**2 Peter 1:3** He supplies everything that pertains to life and godliness.

**John 15:5** Without him we can do nothing!

**John 6:63** God must provides the desire, the inspiration, the power and the motivation and the we need in order to live a victorious Christian life.

**1Corinthians 2:14** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**John 6:44** We can't even come to him unless his spirit draws us.

**Romans 7:18** - Our will power to do what we know we need to do is not enough without his motivation.

**Romans 8:6-7** Two voices continually try to get our attention!

The voice coming from the carnal mind tries to draw our attention to self or to *the vessel*. The voice coming from the spiritual mind tries to draw our attention to the power of God or to *the treasure* that resides inside of us.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** The *letter* of the Word that is connected to the law and the work of our own hands will kill us. The Spirit quickened word will set us free by equipping us with the power of God.

Let us look at the parable of the sower in light of this.

## **Luke 8** Parable of the sower

**Luke 8:5** *A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, **He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

**Luke 8:18** **Take heed therefore how ye hear:** *for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.*

We immediately connect to what we need to do in order to be more productive, but the word warns us to be careful *HOW* we hear. Is our hearing based on the letter of the word or is our hearing based upon the word that has been quickened to us by the Spirit of God? It will make a difference how we react and what kind of fruit comes out of what is heard.

**John 3:5** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

**3:6** *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

Jesus said that which is flesh is flesh and that which is spirit is spirit. Unless the word you know has been revealed to you and interpreted to you by the Holy Spirit you can neither see nor enter into the kingdom of heaven. Where is the kingdom? Is it something that is futuristic?

**Luke 17:20** The kingdom is within us. It doesn't come by observation. It comes by revelation. It is at work inside of us right now.

**Romans 14:17** *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

Unless the word you know has been interpreted by the Holy Spirit you will not be able to experience that kingdom that resides within you where righteousness, peace and joy abide.

**Luke 8:10** *And he said, Unto you it is given to know the **mysteries** of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.*

According to Vines Concordance, a mystery is something that can not be understood with the natural mind. The understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom come by supernatural revelation.

If the natural mind is the interpreter, you can read and hear the words of the scriptures, but you will neither see nor hear what God intended for you to hear and see.

Look at parable sower both ways. What does the letter say? We are not what we ought to be and we need to do something about it. What is the Spirit that always causes us to be God Conscious saying to those who have spiritual ears?

**Luke 8:10-15-** The soil is like the truck- it only receives the seed. It can't control where the seed falls and of itself it can't throw out the rocks and break up the soil.

**John 15:1** God is the husbandman and he works the field.

Ultimately it is the work of the farmer that insures the success of the crop! When we see that there are things that are affecting our spiritual growth, we need to immediately turn to the Holy Spirit or the one who gives us the power to overcome. Father, you supply me with the spiritual knowledge and motivation that I need in order to over -come these obstacles in my life.

*One word from God changes things that are impossible to change when the power of your will is the focus.*

**Matthew 7:7-11** We can boldly run to God and ask for spiritual help. If we ask, he is faithful to supply what we have need of. He will not disappoint us when we look to him as our source.

***John 15:5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

The kingdom is working from the inside out, not the outside in. When we get ahold of that it will set us free! It is God's job- unless the spirit quickens it, the natural man can not understand or perform spiritually. Unless something takes place on the inside, it is only *head knowledge* and that by itself will kill you just like it almost did me.

***Matthew 7:13** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **14** Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

The gates represent entering into a relationship with God. Many find the wide gate but it does not lead to true freedom. This gate represents the sin conscious way of the letter or the law that will kill! Not many will find the narrow gate based on the ministration of the Spirit that leads to true freedom because the flesh contradicts it.

***Matthew 7:15** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. **16** Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

The way of the law or letter that is promoted by Satan is appealing. "You need to get your act together and do something about this situation!" It sounds good, but it is dangerous. How can you tell if you have been listening to this deceiving voice? You can tell by the fruit that it produces. If

you feel anxious, frustrated, condemned and empty these emotions are an indication that you are being led by the false voice.

Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit always brings peace and a sense of well being.

**Matthew 7:21** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Not everyone who is a follower of Jesus is doing his work! Many have put a lot of effort in doing what they thought were kingdom things but Jesus says that they will not enter into the kingdom. Where is the kingdom? It is within us and again, walking in true principles of the kingdom always produce righteous, peace and joy. **Romans 14:17** If we are not walking in true principles with our focus is on the power of God, we will not be able to experience the fruit of the kingdom within us.

Jesus said, "*Depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you.*" Depart from me you that are occupied with the things of the law. This is not my way! Jesus is not on the look out for unrighteousness. He is looking for people that need to be set free from the work of their hands because He genuinely loves us.

**John 15:12** *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

**John 3:17** *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

The wise man's faith is built on the rock. He is God centered. His eyes are on the power of God to deliver. The foolish man's faith is built on his own ability and the work of his own hands. His faith is unstable and subject to the storms of life.

**Matthew 7:24** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:**25** **And** the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. **26** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:**27** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

**Matthew 15:13** What is your faith rooted in? If it is not rooted in Him it will be rooted up.

Are your expectations centered around your power to perform, or are they based upon Gods power to provide?

**2Corinthians 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

It will make a difference because without his provision, we are just powerless shell.