

FORCED TO FOCUS ON GOD

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I. The importance of focus

-Success is 99% perspiration, Michael Jordan

II. God wants to be our total focus

Exodus 34:14 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Caleb (he wholly followed the Lord – Num 32:12)

And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them? ⁸Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadeshbarnea to see the land.⁹For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them. And the LORD's anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying, Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:¹²Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: **for they have wholly followed the LORD.**

III. What competes with our focus on God?

- Difficult times (Peter – Matt 14:28-31)

²⁸“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”²⁹“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

- Cares of the world (Mark 4:18-19)

Mark 4:18-19 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁸ **And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,**

¹⁹ **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

- Comparing ourselves with others (I Samuel 18:6-9)

1 Samuel 18:6-9 King James Version (KJV)

⁶And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

⁷And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

⁸And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

⁹And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

IV. What happens when we focus? (Hebrews 12:1-2)

- **Deliverance (letting things go)**
- **Greater determination (patience)**
- **Better realization of our purpose (race)**

Hebrews 12:1-2 King James Version (KJV)

12 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience** the race **that is set before us**,

²**Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.