

# **Distractions From Living To His Divine Presence In Us!**

## **Distractions That Take Us Away From The Abundant Life Of The Spirit**

By B. D. Tate

One of the major areas of distractions in our life that take us away from resting, feeding, fellowshiping, and staying in His peace, **are the deceitful lusts of the natural man.**

Eph 4:22 that you put off, **concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,**

We are driven, provoked, and preoccupied with desires, dreams, and lusts of the world. If we watch television at all we are being bombarded with them. The Bible calls them: The deceitfulness of riches, the lusts for other things, the cares of this world, and the pride of life (Matt. 13:22 & I John 2:16). Our human heart has needs to feed. We are not without wants. David wrote:

Psalm 23 **“The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want...”**

It is every day we live motivated by desires, dreams, goals, and wants and every day we feed and take into our heart various “foods” to meet those desires. The problem is if we are filled with junk food we won’t be hungry for the good food. How many times have we heard something like this, “Don’t eat those snacks you’ll spoil your dinner.”?

**In A Very Similar Way Our Spiritual Life Is Being Spoiled By What Our Sin Nature Stirs Us To Feed Upon.**

The scripture says to put off the former conduct. That means to stop living to it. We died to the old man, the old ways, and the old life when we became born again.

**Ga 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

**Ga 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**

In America it is the "American Dream." In our culture it is living to make money to have things. We are preoccupied with a standard of living that keeps up with the "Jones." Should we all live like the Amish then? Should we all put away our houses, cars, modern conveniences, and technology?

## **It's Not So Much About Putting Away Things As It Is Putting Away Our Carnal Passions And Desires.**

The Amish may not indulge in the modern world like we do but that doesn't mean they are overflowing with the glory of God within them. Many of them don't even know the Lord. Many of them are just complying and remaining in the culture of acceptance they were raised in.

## **What Is The Real Issue?**

**It is an issue of the heart's inner longings.** We spend our days striving for things that do not satisfy for long. The scripture describes the problem:

**Isa. 55:1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.**

**2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.**

3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;”

**What is it that motivates our life right now?** Are we seeking things that are fleeting? Do we desire what others have? Are we looking at the material world of houses, cars, clothing, technology and things? Maybe it is fame, power, and influence? Maybe it's stardom? Sport's heroes, movie stars, and musicians have taken on forms of idol worship today. Sports for example has for many become the most important part of their lives. Every decision is based upon it. Sports have become America's god. Sports have invaded the everyday life. **Instead of seeking first the kingdom of God it is seeking first the kingdom of sports.**

## **When What Motivates Our Life Has Little To Do With Being In Fellowship With God Something Is Wrong.**

Someone might say, “Well, what does fellowship with God have to do with providing for my family?” Or, “What does fellowship with God have to do in making my way in this life?” If I'm asking that kind of question I am dominated by the flesh and carnal mind. I am dominated by naturalism.

## **I May Be Born Again And Have Tasted Of The Heavenly Kingdom But I Am Still Living In The Old One.**

### **Distractions**

**We are filled with distractions** when we are filled with fear, anxiety, worry, stress, and constantly struggling with peace. When our world is rocked by news of the stock market falling, interest rates rising, or the

housing market dropping, we are distracted. When news of this or that sickness or illness strikes a family member or friend and we gasp, sign, and sense dread, we are distracted. When we must have the TV or radio playing all the time, we can't sit still, and we have to always be doing something, we are distracted.

When we see ourselves as failures, unsuccessful, a loser, inferior, guilty, condemnable, and unworthy, we are distracted. When we judge others, criticize, and evaluate other's way of being or living, we are distracted.

**When we think of only natural solutions, outcomes, and problems, we are distracted.**

### **When We Can't Let Go Of The Past, Feel Trapped In The Present, And See No Hope Of The Future, We Are Distracted!**

We are distracted whenever we are preoccupied with the old life, the old nature, and being just a natural person.

### **We Are Not Seeing Ourselves The Way God Sees Us; We Are Seeing Ourselves The Way The Demonic Want Us To See Ourselves.**

If I am tormented, living my life in regret, wishing it were over, I am being distracted by my *own selfishness*. When I live life self centered I am distracted from what God has for me.

### **When I Can't Respond, Receive, Or Embrace That I Am Beloved, I Am A Son Or Daughter Of God, And I Am Forgiven Forever, And Have Been Made Holy And Righteous By Christ Who Dwells In Me, I Am Distracted.**

When I can't walk in the new life given to me and remain depressed, overwhelmed, sick, and defeated, I am distracted. When my life is not

enjoying the abundant life, the grace filled life, the poured out love of God in my heart, I am distracted!

## **My Distraction Centers On My Corrupted And Deceitful Desires That Have Led Me To Feed Upon Things That Do Not Satisfy. I Am Eating At The Wrong Table.**

Psalm 23: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

3 **He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.**

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.**

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

## **We Are The Temple Of The Holy Spirit**

I was not made to pursue things, worldly goals, and to spend my days chasing my tail. **I was made to be the Temple of the Holy Spirit.** Why am I so strung out desiring and chasing things that perish? Why do I feed on things that only provide a diminishing return? I have no peace because that the things that provide for peace are temporal. Money comes and goes and is subject to the world. Our job has only temporal values when we die someone else will take our place. The things that we possess rust, decay, become broken, and lose their value in time; there really is never enough and all of it can't satisfy us for long.

## **The God Shaped Vacuum**

## **We Talk About This “God Shaped” Vacuum In Our Souls And We Tell Each Other That We Will Never Be Satisfied Until It Is Filled With God; Yet, We Live Our Life As If It Is Not So.**

It is the enemy who wants us distracted from being filled with God. Some of the symptoms of distraction I have tried to present; however, all of it speaks and points directly to the problem.

## **The Problem Is Feeding On Other Things, Deceitful Things, And Things That Will Not Satisfy Because They Cannot Be God To Us.**

**We are born again and have the Spirit within us. We have full access to God Almighty and feast upon His love for us at anytime so why aren't we doing it?**

For some of us we may have been misled to believe that such feasting on God's love is for heaven not here on earth. We may have been misled to believe that the honeymoon only lasts for a short time and so we must endure until the end. For some of us we were never exposed to, or taught, that God's love for us is constant.

## **We Just Haven't Gotten The Memo That Our Purpose In Life Is To Please God By Feeding Upon His Presence, Love, Joy, Peace, And Kindness Towards Us (Eph. 2:7).**

### **Why Would God Be Kind To Us?**

Why would God want to feed us always? Why would God be mindful of anyone of us? The answers to these questions have a set of distractions all their own; however, **it is the natural man, the carnal man, the sin nature within us that asks these questions.**

Ro 6:19 **I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.** For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.**

Eph 4:24 and **that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**

We have been made a member of the body of Christ (I Cor. 6:15). We are sons and daughters of the Most High God. We were created for His pleasure (Eph. 1:5). It is His good pleasure to give us the kingdom (Luke 12:32).

**The Kingdom Of His Dear Son However, Is Not Focused On Material Things, Or Values Of This World. It Is Focused On Another Way Of Living. It Is Living In The Divine Life!**

Our hearts are seeking to be filled. We were made to be filled with His Spirit. Our hearts are seeking to feed. **Our food is to do the will of the Father.** Why are we not satisfied? **It is because we are not developing our spiritual life, to see, taste, hear, and sense God's love for us.** Listen to Jesus who is our example:

John 4: 31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

32 But He said to them, **"I have food to eat of which you do not know."**

33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

34 Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."**

Joh 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him."**

## Look At Jesus!

If there was ever a person who could be successful at anything in life it was Jesus. His resources would have made him good at whatever He wanted to be good at. Whatever He set His mind to do He would have been able to do. He could have been the most successful person in the world in regards to wealth, power, fame, influence, prestige, pride; what couldn't he have had? Stop and think for a moment what the most powerful, capable, and talented person **decided to spend His life doing?**

### He Was Being One With The Father!

His purpose, meaning, fulfillment, satisfaction all came from one source; His relationship to the Father. His abundant life came from the Spirit within Him. **He didn't get distracted** or carried away by the cares of this world, the lusts for other things, or the deceitfulness of riches. His care came from the abiding peace of pleasing God. His lusts, wants, desire were filled with the love of the Father for Him. His riches were sourced from divine life within Him. **All of these things were given to Him as a man upon the earth (Phil 2:5-8).**

**Guess what? All of these same riches are ours when we became born again (Rom. 9:3).** Our life is measured not by the standards of the world; but it is measure by faith, hope, and love. The joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh. 8:10). We have the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us to be about the most precious job there is, being ministers of reconciliation (I Cor. 12:6 & II Cor. 5:18)! We are to heal the broken hearted, heal the sick and dying, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, and bring liberty to the oppressed (Matt. 10:8).

**The Problem Is That We Are Still Feeding At The Table The World Feeds At And It Is Distracting Us So Much We Are Miserable.**

**What is the call then? It is know Him, the power of His resurrection life in us, to feed on His faithfulness, to grow in the knowledge of the One true God Jesus Christ, and to enter into His rest and peace (Phil 3:10 & II Pet. 1:8)!** It is to be fed by the Spirit the riches of His pleasure. To be entertained not by the world but by the presence of the joy of the Father. **We have not been developing our personal relationship in the Spirit to be a Temple of God.** What is the purpose of a Temple? It is a place where God is worshipped, adored, praised, and worshipped again and again.

**It Is A Place Where The Spirit Of God Is Focused On And The Peace Of Christ Surpasses All Natural Knowledge.**

## **We Are Ignoring Our Salvation!**

We are holders of the light but our distractions have place covers over it. We genuinely have struggled to believe that God's word and presence is enough. **We have treated the Word as common instead of it being life itself.**

**We Need To Change This So That The Word Changes Our Hearts.**

We should not be fearful, anxious, insecure, sick and feeble, desiring and chasing after the things of this world (Phil 4:6). We should not look like or be distracted by everything the world is being distracted by. We should not look like the world and behave like the world (I John 2:15)...the only way this changes is by deciding right now, and committing ourselves right **now to know Him, to be filled with the Spirit, and develop our personal relationship with the Lord that as this chorus song shares so is our life:**

**“Turn your eyes upon Jesus; look full into His wonderful face...and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”**

It is not what we do that makes us happy it is **who we live to** that brings fulfillment in life. God is waiting for us to get it (II Pet. 3:9).

## **Life Is All About Us Knowing Him, Abiding In His Love, And Walking In His Grace.**

All that matters is our relationship to the Lord. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to us (Matt. 6:33). Put off the old way of conduct, stop living to the rat race of feeding on things that will not satisfy...stop being anxious, worried, and stressed, and live in God's awesome love and purpose.

## **How Do We Recognize The Distractions And Focus On The Lord?**

**When we are bored our mind, soul, and emotions often look to find something to occupy us.** The boredom is the sign that we lack time with Jesus. Instead we seek entertainment, news, music, sports, and company of others in order to stop the pain of being bored. How many of us turn on the TV every night? How many of us always have the radio on in the car? How many of us are constantly staying abreast of our favorite team or player? How many of us are watching the news twenty-four seven? How many of us watch movies and more movies? How many of us go out to eat more than we should to entertain ourselves?

## **Not That Any Of These Things Are Bad In Themselves; It Is When We Are Constantly Avoiding Boredom And Feeding On Them In Order To Fill The Emptiness.**

**When we stop preoccupying ourselves with these readymade distractions our first response is, "I'm bored."** We start trying to figure out what we can do. We start thinking of jobs to be done, TV shows that are coming on, something to eat, something to read, or maybe someone to text, email, or go online to chat with. How about a video

game, a music DVD, going for a walk, ride a bike, or do some yard work. Is the game on tonight?

## **When We Stop The World Of Activities, Opportunities, And Chores, What Happens? There Is A Subtle But Real Pain.**

It is the uneasiness of being alone, or quite, or feeling unuseful. This time of saying no to all the things we normally say yes to can be unsettling. If we have children the constant demand of taking care of their needs just adds to the pressure of being busy—being distracted.

Certainly there are things that must be done, responsibilities that must be addressed, and needs that must be met. Days can go by; weeks can pass before we have actually stopped to take time with God.

## **When We Stop All Of The Other Things, We'll Find The Pains Of Spiritual Hunger Waiting For Us.**

On the other hand, we have this tyranny of the urgent and with it a *guilty consciousness* toward living a life that is simpler, slower, and less active. I remember the usual boasting of how busy people were. They were so busy that work never gets done. They were so busy that appointments were weeks ahead, if not months. **The busier someone made themselves to be the more important, the more responsible, and the more valid their life was.**

Under law (The Law of Moses) the guilt and condemnation of being slothful, wasting time, being lazy, or taking too much time to accomplish tasks, among other things, presses upon us this mandatory lifestyle of being busy. Under law we are obligated to be busy. **We are busy to avoid the judgments coming our way; in other words, to stop the torment.** Remember we are no longer under law but under grace (Rom. 6:14)!

The scripture reveals that Jesus had busy times too; **but He also took time for Himself, others, and especially His relationship to God. First things were first with Him.** He didn't start His ministry young; He didn't become a child prodigy preacher. He didn't rush into ministry even as a young man; it wasn't until He was thirty that the Spirit moved Him to begin. His ministry was directed at mainly twelve men although he often had crowds following Him. His time included eating at a tax collectors house, visiting Martha, Mary, and Lazarus' home on several occasions and other things that took time. He travelled by foot mostly, sometimes on a boat. He would always be found on the Sabbath to be in a synagogue or the Temple. He took time to bless children, and He must have spent multiple hours, days, and weeks, healing all who came to Him. His ministry lasted about three years and it changed the world.

## **He Was Not Too Busy To Miss The Very Important Things God Had For Him.**

For us today we must recognize that busyness is a trap that is keeping us from putting first things first in our lives. Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness **requires putting off the old conduct and ways to become Christ centered!**

**Christ centeredness means developing our spiritual life.** It means becoming aware of the Spirit's leading, presence, and power.

## **It Means Putting Away The Busyness Of Our Lives To Focus Our Attention On The Real Food That Satisfies.**

We have food that has been born into us that feeds, strengthens, lifts us, and maintains our peace. **This is the manna that is from above that is now in our spirit (Eph. 3:16).**

**The wise in Christ will realize that it is vital that we learn to draw it out of our spirit into our hearts.**

## **We Are Not Seeking The Power Of God **We Are Seeking God And That's Powerful.** We Are Not Seeking Miracles **We Are Seeking God And That's Miraculous!****

**We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the enemy is deathly afraid you and I will connect with (II Cor. 4:7).** When we connect it transforms us from weak and feeble natural men and women, **into spiritually alive and victorious believing, believers (II Cor. 3:18)!**

## **Our Most Important Task Every Day Is To Become Spiritually Alive, Connected, And Grace Minded!**

We simply are spinning our wheels and wasting our time to try to live in this world **without the miraculous power of our relationship to Jesus being tapped.** We are nothing without Him and living one day without connecting is exactly what the enemy needs from us (John 15:5).

When we see Jesus in us then we experience life and it more abundantly (John 10:10). It is not about right doctrine or even **just** believing the right things...**it's about exercising our unity of the Spirit in Him.** We draw from Him the living waters (John 7:38). We draw from the Spirit God's love for us and this changes our perspectives, our hearts, and our position. When we walk with Him by our side it helps **but when we walk with Him as our life it overcomes!**

## **God Has Given Us The Greatest Gift Possible, Being Made One With The Father And The Son Through The Holy Spirit.**

The more we commune in Him and act upon His grace **the more power of His presence and glory comes forth.** The power of God is not separate from His glory and His glory is not separate from our communion with Him.

**We develop our inner power by developing our inner life with Jesus.**

The more we know Him within our being the more it shows.

## **Transformation Takes Place Because We Seek Him And Find Him.**

It was said of the disciples, “that they had been with Jesus.” Others could tell that they had been communing with the Lord. **The truth is our lives reflect in greater or smaller degrees how much we’ve been with Jesus.**

**We must connect with Jesus everyday!** We must stir up the gift of God in our life by making our spiritual life foremost (II Tim. 1:6). Our life belongs to God when we live it with Him as an aside we are denying grace. **God has come to us to help us, fill us, satisfy us, and give us peace that breeds power (Phil. 4:7).**

## **Our Boredom Indicates Our Lack Of Feeding Upon His Love, His Peace, His Strength, And His Glory.**

Our flesh fights against us to take the time to seek Him and focus on the miracle of being born again (Gal. 5:17).

## **The First Step Is Also The Last!**

**The first step to take is to realize just what we have in Christ!** We need to comprehend by faith what we’ve become to God through the Holy Spirit! We are sons and daughters of the Most High God (II Cor.6:18)! **This first step is also the second, third, fourth, and on and on until the last...we never stop!**

**What this means is that we have precious access to the Holy One twenty-four seven.** It means we have been made right with Him and nothing can separate us from the love of God ever again (Rom. 8:35)! God sees us as He sees Jesus (I John 4:17). We stand before Him in

holiness having had our sins taken away (Eph. 4:24). Our new creation positions us as accepted and beloved, even as much as God loves Jesus (John 17:23). There is no second class citizenship, no second class relationship, and no third party mediation (Heb. 7:25 & Gal. 2:6)!

We've been made One with the Father through the Son and we can stand in God's presence without guilt or shame or any sense of inferiority (John 17:21). We have full rights to use the name of Jesus in authority to redeem, deliver, heal, and cast out demons and destroy the works of the devil (John 15:16). We are His arms, hands, feet, mouth, eyes, and body in full expression upon the earth. We re-present Jesus to the world (John 12:24; I Cor. 11:1 & I John 4:17).

It is to realize we are partners with the greatest being there is! God has subjected His power to our heart (Luke 10:2 & Eph. 3:20). The Spirit and glory of God's compassion, redemption, wisdom, and revelation come through us! Just as we can do nothing separated from the vine; neither can God do anything in this world without His branches—we are His branches (John 15:5)!

Consider then that we were lost in trespasses and sins and dead to God; however, now through the power of the cross we've been made alive to Him (Eph. 2:5). We who were once dead are now lifted high above all things by the Spirit that dwells in us. We have the same Spirit, to do the same things, for the same reasons, and for the same glory as Christ (John 14:12). Just as He is so are we in this world. Just as He was sent so are we (John 20:21). Just as He was resurrected from the dead so are we (Rom. 6:8)!

**We will never realize just how much all this and more is true until we glorify Him in our heart.**

**It Is When Our Personal Connection With Him Is Magnified That Transformation Takes Place And We Are Lifted From The Natural To The Supernatural.**

As long as we continue to maintain a sin consciousness, a world consciousness, and natural mind consciousness, **we'll miss out on the greatness of our calling.**

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, **beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,**

Col 1:10 **that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

2Th 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, **and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,**

The first step is to become fully aware, embrace the truth of His grace and love towards us that we have become just as He is (Col. 2:7)! It is not that God's great compassion and mercy have been given to us as weak and feeble beings...**it is that He has made us One with Him!**

Eph. 4: 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**

**Jesus Isn't Just Our Covering As If To Hide Our Hideousness, No God Has Made Us New Creations In The Very Image Of Christ!**

**It is the daily connection within our being of the truth and grace that has come to us that makes us worshippers!** We are free to forget the past, free to embrace the present, and free to respond with amazing gratitude for what God has done in saving us from ourselves!

**As New Creations In Christ We Worship, Praise, Adore, And Sing Because We Genuinely Realize That Our Salvation Is Amazing!**

This is the heavenly manna, the food that never disappoints; it is the glory of God that more than satisfies! It is full, it is overwhelming, and it is glorious. **As we feed on the righteousness of Christ in us the glory of it all transforms us from unbelieving believers, to believing, believers!**

**II Cor. 3: 18** But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**What We've Become And What It Took Brings Us To Grow In The Knowledge Of The Power Of The Cross. Amen.**

## **Further Steps**

**Stay familiar and constant in the Word of God especially the letters to the churches by the Apostles.** These letters explain grace to us and open up our eyes to understand the new creation in all of what it means (II Cor. 5:17). We need to know the Word for ourselves and be established in it (Heb. 13:9). This means convinced and persuaded so that we move and act upon it. **It is only when we act upon God's Word that our minds are transformed and renewed to actually think, speak, and act in the Word.**

We need to understand that what was written to any one of us (the apostles, the early church), was written to all of us. **It is God speaking directly to us from eternity.** We should take the Word of God as our very own. God is speaking to us and that Word is eternal, almighty, presenting to us the divine nature and life within us (II Pet. 1:4). As we meditate upon the Word of God the Holy Spirit reveals its truth to our heart.

**Revelation knowledge is more powerful than natural knowledge that comes to us through our physical world and senses (II Cor. 4:18).**

Revelation knowledge comes to us Spirit to spirit!

## **When We See God In His Glory Through His Word; God Sees Us In Faith!**

This is the real food that will not disappoint nor fade away. It is sharp, dividing the truth, discerning and edifying (Heb. 4:12). This is the manna from above that has now been born into spirit! **This is the table prepared for us in the midst of our enemies!** This table cannot be stolen from but it can be ignored.

## **The Enemies Of Christ Want Us Distracted From The Table Of The Lord To Feed On What The World Is Offering.**

**The reason we are bored in life is because there are no foods in this world that can be god to us.** Only God's Word satisfies our longings. We need to feed on His faithfulness and His Word that is what we were meant to do (Psalms 37:3)! **Come therefore, buy and eat that which satisfies hallelujah!**