

Attractive Distractions

Distraction is one of the end time strategies of the devil used against humanity to remove them from what really matters

The message in this edition is an encouragement to all to obtain restoration. The things going on in the world today are making a lot of people abandon the path of blessing. The phrase 'Attractive Distractions' might seem like an oxymoron but it is the dimension of the lives of so many people now.

Let us start with Peter, the foremost apostle of Jesus Christ. Peter had confessed Jesus Christ as the Son of God in Matthew

16:13-19 but the same Peter got tired of waiting after Jesus Christ resurrected. He was distracted. Let us read his story in John 21:1, "After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing" This was the second time Peter would fish and catch nothing. In Luke 5:3-10, Peter had previously gone fishing by himself and caught nothing. "And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and

prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they beaan to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me;

God is God and He does not move according to human sentiment. He moves according to His own purpose and will for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."

For about three years, Peter followed Jesus, Sometimes Peter would run ahead and lesus would bring him back. Other times Peter would talk out of sense and Jesus will rebuke and correct him. However, at the time after Jesus Christ had finished His assignment and gone, this same Peter went back to look for the fishing net he had abandoned years ago and told the other disciples, "I go a-fishing." Since the others looked up to him as a leader, they all went fishing. All night they caught nothing. They caught nothing because God had moved their lives away from the fishing business and into something more glorious but Peter did not stay in that glorious place at that time because he was

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distracted. Everyone falls back to what they are comfortable with when they are in confusion.

A lot of people have attractive distractions in their lives. Distraction is one of the end time strategies of the devil used against humanity to remove them from what really matters. 2 Timothy 3:1-7 says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own covetous. boasters. selves. proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers. false accusers. incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts. Ever learning. and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Always learning and not being able to

come to the knowledge of truth because of distraction. The devil is using distraction both spiritually and physically. Many have weighed in on social media conversations about leaders in public domain the the to detriment of their own soul and emotional health.

Do you know that a lot of people have been distracted from the blessings that God has in stock for them because of their critical spirit? Peter was like that. Peter denied Jesus Christ and Jesus had come to restore him, but Peter would not focus on his own business because he was distracted. In John 21:15-22. "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than

Do you know that a lot of people have been distracted from the blessings that God has in stock for them because of their critical spirit? these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord: thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time. Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee. When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall aird thee, and whither carry thee thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved followina: which also leaned on his breast

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at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?" Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me."

There are some people who are so blinded by what is happening in the lives of others that they do not see what God is doing in their own lives. Some are blinded by what God is doing in the families of others and do not give praise to God for what He is doing in their own families, because they are attractively distracted.

What are distractions?

1. A distraction could be a thing, a person or an idea.

- Distractions are those things that take your mind off what God desires for you and His kingdom.
- A distraction is anything that makes you doubt God's plan for your life.
- It is anything that makes it difficult for you to concentrate on the righteousness of God.

God is God and He does not move according to human sentiment. He moves according to His own purpose and will. Why would He allow Jesus Christ to be killed like a common thief on a tree? It was because that was His pleasure and the act that would bring us into salvation. His wisdom had packaged it that way. With anything that is going on in the world, you need to ask, "God, where are you in this?" before you get distracted.

A lot of people are getting distracted and are not seeing God as still being in charge of the world He created. God has not lost control of this world. Situations in your life may be going out of control but God is still in control. I know this because the sun rose today and will set. That is the way He set it. The day God loses control is the day the sun will never rise. God told David that His covenant with David's household would only be broken when His covenant with the sun and the moon stops. For as long as the sun is still up in the sky, God is still in control. For as long as the sun rises and sets, God is still in control. So, no matter what is happening, do not get distracted.

A sister gave a testimony in Lagos. She said she had been deep in the world and then she gave her life to Jesus Christ. When she came to Christ, things were slow around her and what she expected was not coming. So she went back into some of the things she had left behind and started to put her hands in them again. God then gave her a revelation of where she would end up if she continued that way. She then started to shout and warn everybody that sin may look beautiful but leads to Hell Fire.

She begged people to stop because she said she had seen Hell Fire in her revelation.

5. Distraction is that which and sustains promotes mental distress in your life to the point that you cannot There please God. was something that Samson received from Delilah and it was not a good gift. Samson was so stressed that he thought he was going to die. Judges 16:15-16 reads, "And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times. and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death" Samson got SO mentally distressed that he did not remember that God had anointed him from his mother's womb to judge Israel and deliver them from the Philistines. The Psalmist said in Psalm 23:5. "Thou anointest my head with oil..." Everyone that is born again carries a measure of the anointing of God for goodness and mercy, but mentally when vou are distressed to the point that you are not connecting to the owner of the anointing, the oil on the head will dry up. Delilah tormented Samson till he was frustrated and, after she shaved off the hair on his head, he became an ordinary man.

- 6. Distraction is that which interrupts the flow of your relationship with God.
- 7. Distraction is that which promotes emotional trouble that affects your spiritual life negatively. Anything that destabilises you to the point that you cannot pray is an attractive distraction. The apostles had a situation like that in Acts 6 when they were being pressured to distribute food and tend tables and they decided that they were not going to leave the word of God and prayers

to serve tables. It was a distraction.

8. Distraction is that which makes you mad at God and His ways. The living God says Isaiah 55:8. "For my in thoughts are not vour thoughts, neither are your ways my ways..." When Naaman, the Syrian captain in 2 Kings 5 who had leprosy, came all the way from Syria to the prophet in Israel to be cured and the prophet told him to go and dip himself in the River Jordan seven times, the anger inside of Naaman made him annoyed with the prophet. He believed that if it was just a matter of bathing in a river, they had better rivers in Damascus. He was annoyed, but the River Jordan is where God had an appointment with him. He was distracted. A lot of people have missed the place of their blessing because they are annoyed with God and His ways.

Why does the devil use distractions?

- 1. To promote spiritual filthiness.
- 2. To sustain emptiness.
- 3. To create disunity.
- 4. To promote disobedience to the instructions of God.
- 5. To steal, to kill and to destroy.
- To get a foothold in a man's affairs. It is like when you want to close a door and someone sticks a foot in so you cannot close it properly. It creates a ladder in your life so that the enemy can come back anytime they want.
- 7. To weaken the spiritual authority that God has given to his church. The scripture says that one will chase a thousand and two will chase ten thousand. This, however, is not so when there are distractions.
- 8. To make saints compromise.
- To hold people under satanic oppression.
- To disgrace men and women who call on the name of God and bring them to shame.

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What are some of the weapons that the devil uses to distract men?

- 1. Thoughts. The devil plants thoughts.
- 2. Visions and dreams
- 3. Evil Association
- 4. Threats
- Technology. There is now instant communication and news can now break from anywhere in the world. A lot of people do not know how to filter such news and by the time it settles in their souls, they are distracted.
- 6. The Doctrine of Balaam. Jude vs 11 says, "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core"

What is the way of victory over these distractions?

1. Philippians 3:13,14 says, *"Brethren, I count not myself* to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, foraettina those thinas which are behind. and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." There is a goal that has been set before us and that goal is lesus Christ Himself. Hebrews 12:2 says, "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" Looking unto Jesus will give vou victorv over these distractions.

- 2. Give yourself to righteousness.
- 3. Give yourself to purposeful prayers.
- 4. Obey divine instructions.
- Walk in faith. You need to be intentional in your walk with God. For your spiritual life to be effective, you must be intentional the way Daniel was in Daniel 1:8, which reads, "But Daniel purposed

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in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat..." Purpose in your heart that come what may, you will not bow.

The devil is interested in making you a victim. Do not allow him because you are not a victim. You have the authority of life in you. You are not supposed to fold up your life and say you are waiting for death. That is not your portion. Going forward you need be thoughtful to in vour relationship with God. Do not beg God to accept what He has said He hates because He will never accept it. If He has declared that He hates it. know that He hates it. When God says something is an abomination to him, do not try to dress it up. The moment you begin to dress it up, He will just leave you be and you would be at the mercy of the devil and not at His mercy. When God has mercy on you, the judgment of the world and the devil will not prosper in your life; but when you are at the mercy of the devil, he can do anything with you. King David had а very good understanding of this. When in 2 Samuel 24 he conducted a census of the Children of Israel that he was advised against and the consequence came, he told God that it was better for him to fall into God's hands, because he knew God was merciful, than to given to the will of his be enemies. It is better that you stay under the mercy of God, doing what pleases Him, than for you to be at the mercy of the enemy. When God He savs hates something please stay away from it. You need to be intentional and you need to be purposeful in your relationship with God. He said those who seek Him diligently will find him.

> Sermon by: Pastor Richard Ebofin Asst. Snr. Regional Overseer (MFM Region 2, Calgary)

Prayer Points

 My father, destroy every distraction in my life, in the name of Jesus

- Grace to run this Christian race successfully, I receive it now, in the name of Jesus
- Grace to finish well, come into my life, in the name of Jesus
- Every distraction in my life, be terminated by heaven today, in the name of Jesus.
- Every distraction that is removing the oil of God from my head, die, in the name of Jesus.
- Every register of darkness that has my family name on it, catch fire, in the name of Jesus.
- Every program of darkness assigned to demote my destiny, die, in the name of Jesus.
- Curses that prospered in my bloodline, you will not prosper in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
- Powers tying my glory to dead men or to dead relatives, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 10. Serpents that troubled my parents and are now troubling my life, die, in the name of Jesus.

- 11. Darkness preventing my helpers from locating me, enough is enough, die, in the name of Jesus.
- Jesus Christ, you are the light that scatters darkness. Scatter my darkness, in the name of Jesus.
- Jesus Christ, arise, and make up the difference in my life, in the name of Jesus.

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	SAT	4 POWER MUST CHANGE HANDS - 7:00am EXPECTANT FAMILY SPECIAL PRAYERS (After Service)	11 YOUTH & TEENAGE FELLOWSHIP - 12 noon	CHILDREN TEACHERS' PRAYER SESSION - 12 noon	18	MARITAL BLISS FOR SINGLES - 5:00 pm	25	WORKERS' MEETING 5:00pm		
omans 8:13	FRI	m	10	WORKERS' VIGIL. 11:00pm	17	GOD THAT DOETH WONDERS PRAYER VIGIL - 11:00 pm	24	GREAT PHYSICIAN NIGHT 11:00pm	31	MEN OF VALOUR REGIONAL PHONE PRAYER MEETING 9:30pm - 10:00pm
:38:7; Isaiah 60:1; R	THU	2	6		16		23		30	
- Psalm 116:8; Psalm 1	WED	1 MANNA WATER. INTERNATIONAL HO. PROGRAM 6:30pm	00	REVIVAL SERVICE 6:30pm	15	MANNA WATER. INTERNATIONAL HQ. PROGRAM 6:30pm	22	REVIVAL SERVICE 6:30pm	29	REVIVAL SERVICE 6:30pm
ND NEW GLORY	TUE		7 START OF OUENCHING	THE RAGE NIGHT PRAYERS	14		21		28	
MY YEAR OF SPIRITUAL REVIVAL AND NEW GLORY - Psalm 116:8; Psalm 138:7; Isaiah 60:1; Romans 8:13	MON		6 EARLY MORNING FIRE 5:30am - 6:00am	BIBLE STUDY & HOLY SPIRIT HOUR 6:30pm	13	EARLY MORNING FIRE 5:30am - 6:00am BIBLE STUDY & HOLY SPIRIT HOUR 6:30pm	20	EARLY MORNING FIRE 5:30am - 6:00am BIBLE STUDY & HOLY SPIRIT HOUR 6:30pm	27	EARLY MORNING FIRE 5:30am - 6:00am BIBLE 5TUDY & HOLY SPIRIT HOUR 6:30pm
MY YEAR OF SPIR	SUN		5 WORKERS' MEETING 8 am		12	WORKERS' MEETING <mark>8 am</mark> EAGLE HOUR SERVICE 9 am	19	WORKERS' MEETING 8 am WORSHIP SERVICE 9 am	26	HOLY COMMUNION 8 am FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE 9 am
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Weekly Programs

Worship Service: Sundays 9 a.m. Bible Study: Mondays 6:30 p.m. **Revival Hour:** Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Night Vigil: Fridays 11 p.m.

Early Morning Fire: Mondays 5:30 a.m. - 6 a.m. Tel: +1 587 405 1252 Code: 5407376#

Monthly Programs

Power Must Change Hands -1^{st} Saturday of Every Month - 7 a.m. The God that Doeth Wonders – 3rd Weekend of Every Month

South Calgary Branch:

Forest Height Community Hall, 4909 Forego Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2A 2C4 Airdrie Outreach Center:

Genesis Place. The Echo Room. 800 East Lake Blvd NE. Airdrie. T4A 2K9

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