



**“...the flaming arrows of the evil one.”**

Ephesians 6 (the quote above) mentions “flaming arrows.” Why flaming? Don’t regular arrows do the damage? Can’t someone be killed by just “an arrow”? Why flaming?

Indians found that if they would shoot an occasional flaming arrow at a wagon or log home, it would split the attention of their enemy. The enemy would have to lie down some of their guns to put out the fire or there would be worse problems. The flaming arrows weren’t necessarily shot to kill someone as much as distract them from the fight.

Distraction is one of the worse temptations to Christians. And in our day and age, it is getting worse. The reason? Distractions aren’t always sinful. In fact very seldom are they evil in and of themselves. They are just a temporary side-note to take our attention from the war we are in. It is something that we feel is of more importance than staying the course or “running the race”.

Hebrew 12:2 says, “...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” The Greek term for fixing our eyes is, ἀφορᾶω (Gr.). The literal meaning is “to consider attentively.” It is the idea of turning the eyes away from other things and fixing them on something. That something is Jesus. All things are in and through Him. Jesus gets the first priority of the day. He is the “first fruit” and deserves our “first fruits” as well.

What I’ve discovered is that when I fix my day (eyes) on Jesus at the start, although distractions and flaming arrows come, I have a direction and a purpose that Jesus is leading me to accomplish. Now, I don’t just ignore everyone to complete this “purpose” but I am able to remain on course because I have set my goal on where Jesus is leading.

What about you? Do distractions keep you from accomplishing what God has called you to today? Do you find yourself in confusion most of the time? Does it feel that everything is nagging at you and at the end of the day you’ve accomplished nothing? Then here’s my question. Where did you fix your eyes at the start of the race called Today? Was it on your things and tasks (basically on you)? Or was it on Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith? When it is focused on Him, you will be able to fight through the distractions and flaming arrows of the “evil one”.

How do I know? I have faith in Jesus and He is my shield. Pick up your shield and fix your eyes.

From My Heart,  
*Billy*