

"Pace is a Forgetfulness Problem"

The Problem of Pace (Pt. 5 ½)

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"Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life." (Dallas Willard) ...When I first heard that, I felt a deep resonance with reality. Hurry is the root problem underneath so many of the symptoms of toxicity in our world. And yet Willard's reply is not what I would expect. I live in one of the most secular, progressive cities in America, but if you were to ask me, What is the great challenge to your spiritual life in Portland? I'm not sure what I'd say. Most likely I'd say it's modernity or postmodernity or liberal theology or the popularization of the prosperity gospel or the redefinition of sexuality and marriage or the erasure of gender or internet porn or the millions of questions people have about violence in the Old Testament or the fall of celebrity pastors or Donald Trump. I don't know. How would you answer that question? I bet very few of us would default to "hurry" as our answer.

But read the Bible: Satan doesn't show up as a demon with a pitchfork and gravelly smoker voice or as Will Ferrell with an electric guitar and fire on Saturday Night Live. He's far more intelligent than we give him credit for. Today, you're far more likely to run into the enemy in the form of an alert on your phone while you're reading your Bible or a multiday Netflix binge or a full-on dopamine addiction to Instagram or a Saturday morning at the office or another soccer game on a Sunday or commitment after commitment after commitment in a life of speed.

Corrie ten Boom once said that if the devil can't make you sin, he'll make you busy. There's truth in that. Both sin and busyness have the exact same effect—they cut off your connection to God, to other people, and even to your own soul." **John Mark Comer**, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* (pp. 19-20). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

...But the solution isn't merely about learning to do less ...or learning to become a better time manager ...or moving life to a Monastery in the Desert —We are called to Live Full, Engaging, Advancing, Creative Lives that accomplish meaningful things!

Gen 1:26, 28 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ...²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

subdue it and have dominion. The term “subdue” (Hb. kabash) elsewhere means to bring a people or a land into subjection so that it will yield service to the one subduing it (Num. 32:22, 29). Here the idea is that the man and woman are to make the earth’s resources beneficial for themselves, which implies that they would investigate and develop the earth’s resources to make them useful for human beings generally. This command provides a foundation for wise scientific and technological development; (ESV Study Bible Notes)

A God-Infused Life vs a Break from Life

...Engaging Many Things—While Remembering ONE Thing!

Deut 8:1, 7-11 “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ... ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God...

- v. 1 ...Still hearing the mandate of Genesis 1
- v. 7 ... “God is bringing us” ...into a “Good Land”
- v. 7-9 ...There's a Lot of Human Activity Described in this passage ...that is going to take man's attention, energy, and engagement

...There's Industry in this passage ... There's Education in this passage ...There's Relationships in this passage ...There's Conflict

¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

- v. 10 ... ***Partaking in Pleasure and Experiencing Reward, Satisfaction, and Enjoyment are GOD'S WILL and INTENTION for US!***

...Our Interactions with God's Creation is intended to be the Launching Pad of Gratitude, Worship, and Creaturely Awareness of the Creator!

- From Taste-buds to Texture to Temperature ...from Color to Variety to Beauty ...from Artistry to Engineering to Medical Advances

...All of these are designed to introduce us to the words “WOW”!!!

- v. 11 ...***The ONE THING to be Warned About ...all this activity ALSO has the potential to make us “forget God”***

Pace, Passions & Practicals

2 Helpful Insights that Impact our PACE of Life

(1) Guard Your Passions ...In Order to Set Your Pace

...We are “Wired for Wonder” ...there's something in us that wants to be “wowed” and “awed” and “thrilled” and “adventurous” ...

...We WANT to Worship Something/Someone!! (We want to “obsess” and “seek Identity” and “depend on”)

- Worship involves “awe” and “affections” and “delight” and “value”!! ...We end up doing what we WANT to Do—What we treasure, value, & worship

... ***“PACE” is often a reflection of what we Worship!***

(2) DO the Practical Things God has Given ...In Order to Protect Your Pace

- Deuteronomy = “the second law” ...it is God “rehearsing His revelation at Mt. Sinai” (40 years earlier)—as they stand at the Entry Way of the Promised Land
- **The CENTER PIECE of Their Lives in the Promised Land ...the TABERNACLE!**

“When the people moved on from Sinai they took the values of Sinai with them. ...The Lord who came to the people at Sinai (Ex 19:18) continued to live among them (Ex 29:42-46). The Tabernacle—its plan (Ex 23-31) and its manufacture (Ex 35-40)—does not make for fascinating reading, but it expresses one of the Bible’s greatest truths, the reality of the indwelling God.” **Alec Motyer, *The Story of the Old Testament*, p. 33**

- **Lots of “Practical Activities” that were designed to Help Man Encounter the Presence of God and to foster an Awareness of God!**
 - Offerings & Sacrifices
 - Weekly Sabbath

[Lev 23:3] “Sacred assemblies or proclamations were an important part of most religious practice in the ancient world. They refer to local or national gatherings for public, corporate worship. The people were summoned together away from their occupational work. (IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament)

- Passover Festival (March/April)
- Firstfruits Festival (March/April)
- Festival of Weeks (Late Spring) - Pentecost
- Festival of Trumpets (Late September)
- Day of Atonement (September/October)
- Festival of Booths (October)

“[Lev 23:1] The Sabbath principle permeates each of these feasts, which are intended to express the divine-human relationship. Each feast requires (1) cessation from ordinary work and (2) dedication to the Lord by means of offerings. (ESV Study Bible Notes)

...These are “Pace Interrupters” and “Reminder-Moments”!!

...They are intended (and Need) to be “Meaningful & Moving”!!

- **God is Jealous to Protect the Things that Protect Our Hearts!**

Haggai 1:3-9 Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, ⁴ “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵ Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶ You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. ⁷ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁸ Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD.

⁹ You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.

v. 6, 9 ...Compare this with Deut 8:10 ...

And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

v. 4, 9 ...These verses don't teach that God is "anti-home ownership" ...and "anti-careers & business development"!!

...God IS "anti-Being-Forgotten"