

## THE SHORTCOMINGS OF FAITH

### Session 4: Becoming Distracted

Pastor Dale Campbell

#### Recent Sessions:

- Making Withdrawals There Are No Deposits
- Being Hesitant to Speak Your Faith

#### I. THE SHORTCOMING OF BEING DISTRACTED FROM WHAT REALLY MATTERS

*It is crucial to recognize that faith must remain centered on the Word of God. The enemy will use any means to draw us away from it, knowing that if our focus is lost our faith will be hindered.*

##### A. Scriptures and Examples Pertaining to Distractions:

###### 1. Luke 10:40-42 (Martha's Distraction)

**NKJV** "But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.' And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'"

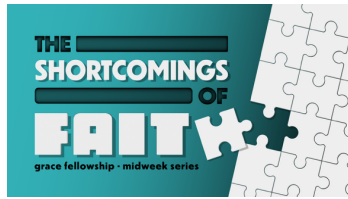
**TPT** "The Lord answered her, 'Martha, my beloved Martha. Why are you upset and troubled, pulled away by all these many distractions? Mary has discovered the one thing most important by choosing to sit at my feet. She is undistracted, and I won't take this privilege from her.'"

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *Distractions are sent to pull us away from that which is necessary. When you are pursuing something by faith, you cannot afford to be pulled away from what sustains and strengthens your faith, keeping it active and effective.*

###### 2. Colossians 3:2

**NKJV** "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

**AMP** "Set your mind *and* keep focused *habitually* on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value]."



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**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *Faith calls for steady focus. The things of this world constantly compete for our attention and, when our attention shifts from the Word of God to our circumstances, our faith begins to weaken.*

#### 3. Example of Peter:

a. Peter's walk on the water was shortened when his attention was diverted from the words of Jesus to the circumstances surrounding him.

#### b. **Matthew 14:28-31**

**CEB** "Peter replied, 'Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water.' And Jesus said, 'Come.' Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. **But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened.** As he began to sink, he shouted, 'Lord, rescue me!' Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, 'You man of weak faith! **Why did you begin to have doubts?'**"

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *Peter's focus changed! His faith became distracted by natural things! Once his focus shifted from the words of Jesus to the surrounding circumstances, his faith ceased to function.*

### B. Faith Must Be Undistracted

*Faith that produces results is single-minded, not double-minded.*

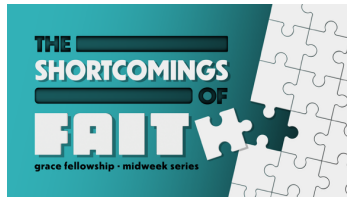
#### 1. Double-Minded vs. Single-Minded

##### a. Single-minded:

- Focused, steady, and undivided in attention.
- Not pulled in opposite directions.
- Consistent in belief and action.
- Trusts God without wavering.

##### b. Double-minded:

- Divided, conflicted, and unstable.
- Torn between faith and fear.
- Inconsistent: faith rises and falls with circumstances.
- Hesitates or doubts.



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#### 2. Double-mindedness and doubt in relation to receiving by faith:

##### a. James 1:5-8

**NKJV** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

##### b. James 1:6-8

**TPT** “Just make sure you ask empowered by confident faith without doubting that you will receive. For the ambivalent person believes one minute and doubts the next. **Being undecided** makes you become like the rough seas driven and tossed by the wind. You’re up one minute and tossed down the next. When you are **half-hearted** and **wavering** it leaves you unstable. Can you really expect to receive anything from the Lord when you’re in that condition?”

##### c. **Waver**: Divided in mind; not fully steady or convinced.

##### d. **Doubt**: Lack of confidence or uncertainty.

**PASTOR’S NOTE:** *The person who doubts is torn between belief and unbelief. Satan uses distractions to pull us away from our confidence in the Word. This is why we must guard our attention and refuse to be shaken into wavering by what we see in the natural realm.*

#### C. Guarding Our Faith from Distractions: Practical Applications for Staying Focused in Faith

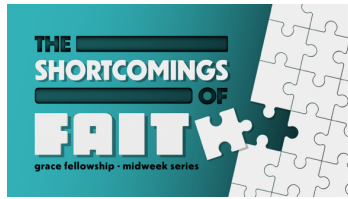
##### 1. Fix your attention on God consistently / constantly.

##### a. Hebrews 12:2

**NKJV** “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.”

**AMP** “... [looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith.”

**GNT** “Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus...”



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**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *We must learn to take control of our attention, especially in the midst of difficult circumstances.*

- *Put your attention on God and His Word.*
- *Refuse to allow anything to divert your attention more toward the circumstances.*

#### 2. Anchor your mind and thoughts in scripture.

##### a. **Philippians 2:5**

**NKJV** "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus..."

##### b. To "anchor" is to **establish!**

##### c. When the enemy begins to cause questioning and reasoning regarding your circumstances, return **quickly** to what God has said.

- Look at it in your Bible.
- Meditate on it!
- Speak it aloud!

#### 3. Control your attention on purpose.

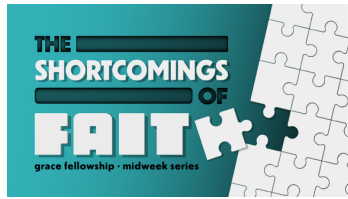
##### a. **Proverbs 4:25**

**KJV** "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee."

##### b. **Proverbs 4:25-27**

**TPT** "Set your gaze on the path before you. With fixed purpose, looking straight ahead, *ignore life's distractions*. Watch where you're going! Stick to the path of truth, and the road will be safe and smooth before you. Don't allow yourself to be sidetracked for even a moment or take the detour that leads to darkness."

**PASTOR'S NOTE:** *Do not let the enemy distract you from your walk of faith. Be determined to recognize every distracting thought, work, or influence that tries to shift your attention from faith to fear. When you recognize what Satan is doing, don't hesitate to call him out on it! Put him in his place—under your feet!*



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4. Keep your mouth aligned with **faith**, not **fear**.
  - a. When Satan attempts to distract your faith and focus your attention on the negative circumstances, his goal is always to engage your words!
  - b. Refuse to speak words of doubt or confusion, no matter how things appear.
  - c. Instead, **boldly** confess and declare the Word, even when your circumstances seem to say otherwise.
  
5. Openly disagree with double-minded thoughts.
  - a. Just because I have a thought, doesn't mean it's mine.
  - b. If negative thoughts keep invading your mind, deliberately reject them by declaring what God says about the situation.
  - c. In doing so, you are **BREAKING AGREEMENT** with distracting thoughts!