

FORWARD THINKING

Stay Focused
October 16, 2016

"No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."
2 Timothy 2:4

1. To stay focused the **trouble** on the way must be < the **prize** at the end
2 Timothy 2:3, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
2. To stay focused the **one we seek to please** must be > than the **noise** around us
2 Timothy 2:4, John 6:66-69
3. To stay focused doing **what is right** must be > than the **shortcuts** in front to us
2 Timothy 2:5-7, Matthew 4:8-10

Home/Group/Personal Study

"In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christian called holiness." Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

1. Share a time when you had to go through something difficult (hard work, pain, the criticism of others) to get something you really wanted. Was it worth it? Explain.
2. What has God promised, now and in the future, to those who love Jesus? Do those promises inspire and encourage you? Explain.
3. How easily are you distracted from what you are suppose to do by less important things around you? Provide one or two examples.
4. What are the things that can distract us from what God wants us to do? Any solutions?
5. Why do some take shortcuts in life knowing they are sacrificing their integrity & character? What are some shortcuts people take as Christians?
6. Share 3 or 4 ways you stay focused on what is most important in your life & faith.

Reflection/Action

Take 5 minutes each day this week to focus on one thing you believe God wants you to do. Pray for focus. Write yourself a note. In every encounter keep God in focus.