



INSIGHTS

YOU CAN *Dominate* DISTRACTIONS

It takes
grit to
resist the
sweeping
flood of
culture.

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

We are a generation destined not to be *changed by* the current culture but to *challenge* that culture for Jesus.

These are also times when the pressure is mounting on the Body of Christ to compromise our stance and our

Distractions can be deadly. They create an overcrowded heart.

standards in order to blend in more perfectly with society. The truth is, we are never going to blend in.

The truly righteous in Christ *stand out*. We are the Jesus people. We are Holy Spirit, new-creation people. We are in the world but not living

by the world's systems or twisted standards.

We must push back on the squeeze and stand our ground. It takes grit and persistence to maintain our focus on God's ways of living. It takes perseverance to resist the current trends of culture that try to sweep our feet out from under us like a swiftly moving river.

We are new creations in Christ



MAKE THIS YOUR PERSONAL DECISION AND DECLARATION:

“My thoughts and imaginations are full of God’s presence and power. I am surrounded by God’s absolute and abundant peace!”

(2 Corinthians 5:17). It is this new-creation revelation that strengthens us.

The apostle Paul gives very real direction on how a renewed mind empowers us to stay strong:

See yourselves co-raised with Christ! Now ponder with persuasion the consequence of your co-inclusion with Him. *Relocate yourselves mentally!* Engage your thoughts with throne room realities where you are co-seated with Christ in the executive authority of God’s right hand. Becoming affectionately acquainted with throne room thoughts will keep you from being distracted again by the earthly realm.

Colossians 3:1–2 *Mirror*

Notice that with Christ, we are...

- Co-raised out of death into heavenly places
- Co-included in His place of Sonship
- Co-seated into a place of spiritual authority

Relocate yourself mentally. You are seated in heavenly places in Christ. See yourself infused with the supply of the Spirit. You have the capacity to stand strong in the face of your enemy! Keep your focus on the things that feed your faith for your future.

This is not always a walk in the park. The distractions of the age are abundant, and they all have a common purpose—to undermine your confidence

in the power in God’s Word to create real results.

It has been rightly said that if you spend more time feeding on the news than in God’s Word, your discouragement is self-inflicted. Typical news broadcasts are filled with one kind of distraction after another—report after report of bad news.

There are also very personal distractions that come to steal your joy, time, energy and future:

- Thoughts of fear and anxiety flooding your mind
- Financial pressure squeezing the joy from your soul
- Strained relationships
- Emotional pain from past failures or hurtful events
- Physical attacks, disease, or troubling symptoms

These are certainly issues that should not be ignored. But when we allow distractors to capture and divide the main focus of our thoughts, we will miss the mark every time.

James describes this condition as being half-hearted:

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?

James 1:7 *TPT*

Jesus described it this way in Luke 8:14 (TPT):

The seeds that fall into the

weeds represents the hearts of those who hear the word of God but their growth is quickly choked off by their own anxious cares, the riches of this world, and the fleeting pleasures of this life. This is why they never become mature and fruitful.

Distractions can be deadly. They create an *overcrowded heart*. They will fill your mind with imaginations of terrible things coming into your life. These worries are like magnets that can attract the very things you fear.

God’s solution is clear. Cast these cares on Him, and He will carry them.

Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all you concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.

1 Peter 5:7 *AMPC*

It is not irresponsible to let go of these weights in your mind. It is the way of liberating yourself in order to fill yourself up with *God’s* thoughts. This is when revelation can come into your heart with real solutions.

Here is His prescription for it all:

Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those whose imaginations are consumed with you; they confidently trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3 *TPT*

Make this your personal decision and declaration: “My thoughts and imaginations are full of God’s presence and power. I am surrounded by God’s absolute and abundant peace!”

This is how we will realign our minds to agree with the deposits God has made in our inner man. We unlock revelation knowledge to see God’s way of thinking so we can accurately walk in His plans. When our thoughts are aligned, we can freely receive revelation from the Holy Spirit within.

Notice how Jesus described it:

No one lights a lamp and then hides it, covering it over or putting it where no one sees its light. No, he places the lamp on a lampstand so others benefit from its brightness. Because this revelation lamp now shines within you, nothing will be hidden from you—it will all be revealed. Every secret of the kingdom will be unveiled and out in the open, made known by the revelation-light. So pay careful attention to your hearts as you listen to my teaching, for to those who have open hearts, even more revelation will be given to

them until it overflows. And for those who do not listen with open hearts, what little light they imagine themselves to have will be taken away.

Luke 8:16–18 *TPT*

Those with open and aligned hearts who receive more and more revelation of God’s way of doing things are the ones Jesus had just described as good soil.

“It has been rightly said that if you spend more time feeding on the news than in God’s Word, your discouragement is self-inflicted.”

The seed that fell into good, fertile soil represents those lovers of truth who hear it deep within their hearts. They respond by clinging to the word, keeping it dear as they endure all things in faith. This is the seed that will one day bear much fruit in their lives.

Luke 8:15 *TPT*

You are good ground and destined to be a fruit producer. Never allow the distractions to set you back. If you have decided to turn it around, God will turn your setback into a setup for success!

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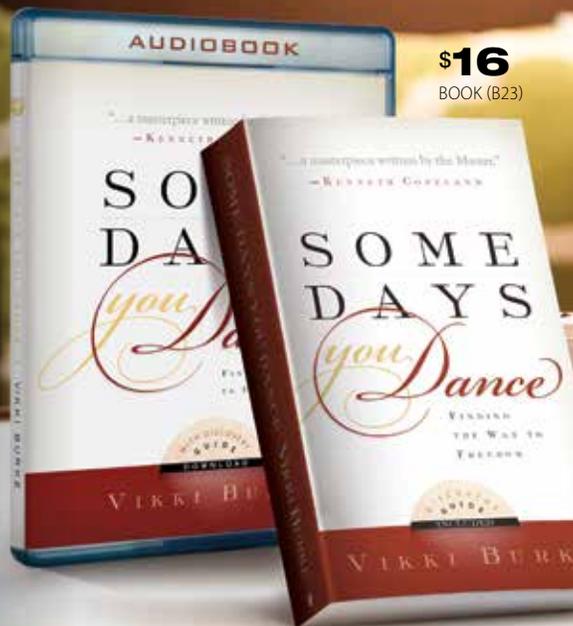


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