

# Maintaining a God-Centered Focus

The following texts and quotes are intended to help maintain a God-centered focus during Satan's attempts to distract and destroy.

## **The key to maintaining a God-centered focus:**

It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness. –*Steps to Christ*, p. 70

Jesus says, "Abide in Me, and I in you, and ye shall bear much fruit." These words convey the idea of rest, stability, confidence. Again He invites, "Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. The words of the psalmist express the same thought: "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." And Isaiah gives the assurance, "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Psalm 37:7; Isaiah 30:15. This rest is not found in inactivity; for in the Savior's invitation the promise of rest is united with the call to labor: "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek (gentle) and humble (submitted to My Father), and ye shall find rest for your soul." Matthew 11:29. –ibid

**The heart that rests most fully upon Christ will be most earnest and active in labor for Him.** –*Steps to Christ*, p. 71

One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit that He gives to you is love – love for God and love for man. The greater the love the Spirit gives you, the more you will have a passion for Christ and a passion to obey His every command. It was this kind of love in the heart of David that brought him to say, "I delight to do Your will O God, Your laws are within my heart."

## **Satan's attempts to distract your God-centered focus and destroy you:**

It is Satan's constant effort to keep the mind diverted from the Savior and thus prevent the union and communion of our soul with Him. Recognize who you are up against. These are four areas of our lives that Satan attacks:

- 1) The PLEASURES of this life
- 2) Life's CARES and PERPLEXITIES and SORROWS
- 3) The FAULTS of others
- 4) Your own FAULTS and WEAKNESSES, to any and all of these he will seek to divert the mind. –*Steps to Christ*, p. 72

We wrestle not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and powers in dark places  
–Ephesians 6:12

## **Our defense against Satan's attacks:**

Continually be reminded of:

### **#1: Who you are:**

- Jesus said, "ABBA, meaning *Daddy*, everything is possible for You, so please take this cup of suffering from Me. –Mark 14:36
- God has ADOPTED YOU & claimed you for His own. You may truly call Him ABBA. Romans 8:15 (He is your "Daddy")
- We, like Christ, may call Him ABBA. –Gal 4:6

He who is "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners," is not ashamed to call us brethren (Heb. 7:26; 2:11). In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. **Christ glorified is our brother.** Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love. (DA 25.3)

- To Honor Christ (Our "Big Brother"). To Become Like Him, To Work For Him, Is The Life's Highest Ambition And It's Greatest Joy. (Ed. 296)
- When Once The Gaze Is Fixed Upon Christ (Our "Big Brother"), The Life Finds Its Center. (5T 237)
- By Beholding Christ (Our "Big Brother"), You Will Be Changed Into His Likeness. (5T 652)
- Christ (Our "Big Brother") thirsts for RECOGNITION.
- He hungers for the love of those whom He has purchased with His blood. (The Chosen)
- He longs with inexpressible desire that you should come to Him and be saved. (DA 191)

### **Recognize your part in the battle:**

- ☐ Put on the armor of God (each morning). –Eph. 6:13
- ☐ Stand (don't fight). –Eph. 6:14
- ☐ Pray always. –Eph. 6:18

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS. –Philippians 4:8

I count all things but loss for the Excellency of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of everything, and consider it all dung, THAT I MAY WIN CHRIST! –Philippians 3:8 (Ask Christ to give you more and more passion for knowing Him)

The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. –Romans 5:5

**Note:** *It is the work of the Holy Spirit to give you “the love of God.” That gift applies to your love FOR God and love for others.*

If you love Me, keep my commandments. –John 14:15

**Note:** *Jesus gives us the motivation for obedience: love. Unless the Holy Spirit has given me a passionate love for God, my attempts to be obedient, which begin at the heart level, will fail when Satan applies the right temptation at the right time.*

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. –Philippians 2:5

If we are ever to attain unto holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the reception of the MIND OF CHRIST. –Mount of Blessings, p. 143

To restore in man the image of his Maker, this is the object of true education. –Education, p. ?

**Note:** *We are all walking, at some point, on God’s RESTORATION ROAD. Therefore, we should be able to see glimpses of Christ in each other’s life.*

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for without Me, you can do nothing. –John 15:5

**Note:** *I am not called to grow the fruits of the Spirit. I am called to “bear” what the Holy Spirit places in me. I am not to focus on the fruit, I must focus on Christ and the Spirit will give me all of the fruit.*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. –Galatians 5:22,23*

**Note:** *the first fruit the Spirit gives us is love. That is love for God. We don’t develop a love for God, the Holy Spirit gives this fruit to us.*

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. –Philippians 1:21*

**Note:** *Paul was saying, “If I live, I will continue to live my whole life for Christ. And If I die, my battle is over and the victory is mine.*

In the heart of Christ where reined perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was NEVER elated by applause nor dejected by CRITICISM and disappointment. Amidst the greatest opposition and most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage.  
–DA, 330

The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and "all things" that are permitted "work together for good to them that love God." (Romans 8:28) –*Mount of Blessings*, p. 71

Christ will lead His redeemed ones beside the river of life and will explain to them ALL that perplexed them in this world. The mysteries of grace will unfold before them. Where their finite minds discerned only confusion and broken purposes, they will see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. –*Testimonies to the Church* vol. 9, p. 193

You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; HE will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. –*Steps to Christ*, p. 47

## ***#2: Be Reminded of What You are Here For (Our purpose for being)***

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. ALL His biddings are enablings. (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 333)

We need to look constantly to Jesus, realizing it is HIS POWER which does the work. (Desire of Ages. p. 362)

Keep on God's side of the line. Set not your foot on the enemy's side, and the Lord will be your helper...There will be in you a power, and earnestness, and a simplicity that will make you a **polished instrument in the hands of God**. (5T, p. 514)

**We do not, as followers of Christ, realize our true position. ... All the good things we have are a loan from our Savior. He has made us stewards.** -3T 397

When Mother Theresa was asked near the end of her life about the huge success she had in India, this was her response:

I have not lived to be successful. I have lived to be faithful to my God. -Mother Theresa

**God has not called me to be successful, He has called me to be faithful** to what He wants me to do. When I am faithfully doing the thing He has called me to do, I will seek only His affirmation and approval and will close my ears to the faint praise or criticism of man. Our goal is to become nothing (of self) that He might be ALL. God says that we are to give Him ALL of the glory for anything He accomplishes through us. Lucifer chose to keep some of the praise he received from the angels for Himself and it eventually led to his insatiable need

**to control** and **to glorify self**. God is at work removing these things from the lives of His children and restoring them to the image of His Son.