

Not Fancy: Devotion to Jesus

2 Corinthians 11:1-3

11 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. ²For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin. ³But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of *devotion* to Christ.

Devotion to Christ is the simplest and purest expression of our faith.

Psalm 31:23

²³O love the Lord, all you His godly ones! The Lord preserves the faithful And fully recompenses the proud doer.

Devotion: Stay close to Him! He is good to the faithful, and in the end will perfect His justice in the earth.

Devotion to Christ, pure and simple, motivates every other expression of our faith!

Psalm 116:1-2

I love the Lord, because He hears My voice *and* my supplications. ²Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call *upon Him* as long as I live.

I prayed to Him, He heard and answered, so I love Him and will keep on praying and looking to Him my whole life!

Psalm 116:12-14

¹²What shall I render to the Lord For all His benefits toward me? ¹³I shall lift up the cup of salvation And call upon the name of the Lord. ¹⁴I shall pay my vows to the Lord, Oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people.

Psalm 63:6-8

⁶When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, ⁷For You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. ⁸My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

1 Corinthians 16:22

²²If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.

Each day, we are presented with an invitation to Devotion, and a temptation to Distraction.

It is the first priority of the kingdom of darkness to find His godly ones, and to FILL YOUR MIND with distractions.

The world and the flesh (sinful nature) are all too willing to lead us after "lovers less fair" than Jesus, our Beloved.

"Minds led Astray" = Distraction!

dis-trac-tion /də'strakSH(ə)n/

1. a thing that prevents someone from giving full attention to something else; a diversion or recreation.
2. extreme agitation of the mind or emotions.

We live in a culture of distraction, and we should not be surprised- we seek out distractions!

It is estimated the average American:

- sees about 5000 advertisements per day;
- sends/receives about 94 text message per day;
- makes/receives 6-10 phone calls per day;
- spends 3 hrs per day on their phone is some capacity- doubled in the last decade.

Luke 21:34

³⁴ “Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap

My responses to the things vying for my attention reveal my priorities, and determine my lifestyle.

Are my choices bringing me closer to Christ, or pulling my heart away from Him?

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

God expects the child of God, under the control of the Spirit of God, and by the grace of God, to employ his/her will in exercising an intentional thought-life.

We each need to hear the invitation to Devotion.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Psalms 46:10

¹⁰ “Cease *striving* and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Lamentations 3:21-25

²¹ This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. ²² The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. ²³ *They are new every morning*; Great is Your faithfulness.

²⁴ “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.”

²⁵ The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.