52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Responding to Distractions**

Day 38 - June 20, 2013

**We saw in yesterday’s study that when we are in the outer courts, there are many distractions for our eyes, ears, and minds.** Distractions make it difficult to hear the voice of God. The Outer Court of the Tabernacle was where everyone gathered to offer their sacrifices to the Lord; either in repentance for their sins, to thank God for answered prayer, or to worship Him. It was a time of corporate gathering with a lot of activity. It was a noisy and dirty place, with people and animals all over the place. Much of our lives as Christians are spent in the Outer Courts, and this is necessary. This is where we gather as the corporate body of Christ. We must come together to pray and worship the Lord.

Too often, we are satisfied to only come to the Outer Courts in our relationship with the Lord. We are grateful to be in the Kingdom of God and around other believers. It is so much better than when we were outside the gates, in the world. We are content; not really understanding the intimate relationship the Lord desires to have with us. We also are unaware of the purposes of the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

**When we are in the Outer Courts, there are many people and many activities, and with that there can be many distractions.**

Webster’s defines **distraction**: to draw apart; to pull in different directions, and separate. To divide, separate; and throw into confusion. To turn or be diverted from any point, towards another point. To perplex, confound, or harass.

When distractions come, we are drawn apart from the plan God has for our life. We are pulled down a different path, going in a direction away from the Lord instead of closer. This throws us in to confusion.

Think back to a time in your life when a distraction came, especially after a great move of God in your life, or after you have made a decision to get closer to the Lord. Or think of a time when you had plans to spend the day with the Lord, and you get a phone call from a friend or family member that is going through something. Distractions can be valid concerns we need to get involved with, or they can be unnecessary things we get tangled up in. **Distractions are not really our problem, our response to them is!**

**When distractions come, they are often tangled up in strong emotions and great urgency.** If we are not careful, we will get on the emotional runaway train with them.

God is the answer to all the problems and needs of our distractions. But we cannot stay in the Outer Court because it is hard to hear from God. When we are surrounded by distractions, they are too loud to hear God clearly or our emotions mixed with our flesh speak contrary to the voice of God. We become perplexed, trying to sort out the voice of God and the voice of our emotions.

**Psalm 55:2-5** “Give heed to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and am **surely distracted**, because of the voice of the enemy, because of the pressure of the wicked; for they bring down trouble upon me and in anger they bear a grudge against me. My heart is in anguish within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me.”

The Hebrew word for **distracted** is **hum**. It means to make an uproar, to agitate greatly, to destroy, to move. It comes from the word **hamam**, to put in commotion; to disturb, drive, destroy; to break, consume, crush, destroy, discomfit, trouble, vex. Distraction is a whole lot of noise that comes to disturb us and ultimately destroy the purposes of God in our lives, if we let it. The noise is in our ears, our minds, and our emotions.

It is interesting that the word for **voice** of enemy means a cackling of geese or the bleating of sheep and goats. The next time you are distracted, try to visualize yourself in the outer courts of the Tabernacle surrounded with all the noisy animals, and remind yourself of the truth of distractions.

We must get out of the Outer Courts and get to a quieter place. We have to stop feeding our emotions and feed on the Word of God. We need to go into the Holy Place. This is a place where we are accompanied with one or a few mature believers, and we enter into this place for the sole purpose of intercession and worship. As we quiet our souls, and as we lift up our prayers to Almighty God, His presence comes and we are at peace. Worship fills our lips and His presence grows greater. We are now assured that He has heard our prayers and is answering our prayers.

**Psalm 107:28-30** “Then **they cried to the LORD in their trouble**, and He brought them out of their distresses. **He caused the storm to be still**, so that the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they were quiet, so He guided them to their desired haven.”

When we get to this place of quiet with the Lord, knowing that He is handling all the issues with our distractions, we can now come closer to His presence. We can enter into the Most Holy Place to be alone with God.

**Psalm 119:114** “You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word.”

In this place with Him and Him alone, we can sit quietly waiting to hear the wisdom He longs to teach us. He will redirect our steps, and shine His light upon the way we are to go.

**Psalm 119:124** “Deal with Your servant according to Your lovingkindness and teach me Your statutes.”

Once we have been given wisdom from the Lord, and once we have been strengthened by the Lord in the secret place of His presence**, we are ready to go back to the Outer Courts and encourage our brothers and sisters in the Lord.** We can return with joy in our hearts knowing that we have been with the Lord and He is taking care of the circumstances that caused our distraction. We can return with confidence, knowing that when the next distraction comes, and it will, we will run to God much quicker. We are also able to encourage others of the power being in the Presence of the Most High God! When they are facing the uproar of the distractions in their lives, **we can lead them into the quiet place of intercession and worship in the Holy Place.**

**Isaiah 40:31** “Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

Continue to read the wisdom in **Psalm 119:105-128,** and work on your **memory verse, Psalm 119:105.**

**Please read Psalm 91** and see the promises God gives to those who come into the secret place of the Most High God, the Most Holy Place, the intimate place with the Lord.