

**The Dangers
of**

DISTRACTIONS

October Bible Study Series

**STAYING CONNECTED TO
GOD IN A WORLD FULL OF
DISTRACTIONS**

Lesson Two

**“Don’t let the noise of the
world keep you from
hearing the voice of the
Lord.”**

Human Relationships

“Relationships these days are harder now because conversations become texting, arguments become phone calls and feelings become status updates.”

Our Relationship with God

**Our treasure is no longer God,
but those things that gather
dust and rust and corrode.**

Matthew 6:19-20 (NLT), “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

"What do you want more than anything in the world?"

**“Religion is a guy in church
thinking about fishing.
Relationship is a guy out fishing
thinking about God.”**

**Three Anchors To Help
Reinforce Our Connection With
God:**

I. GUARD YOUR HEART

Jeremiah 17:9–10, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

**Whatever occupies our
hearts governs our lives.**

Proverbs 4:23-27, Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

The Three Ways To Guard Your Heart:

1. Protect Your Speech

**The best way to protect your
speech is to practice the
pause.**

2. Protect Your Eyes

3. Protect Your Path

**Psalm 119:133, “Guide my steps by
your word, so I will not be
overcome by evil.”**

Are You on Guard?

II. GUARD YOUR DEVOTION

True devotion and commitment mean deciding to do whatever it takes to please God because we love Him. It means full allegiance to the Master.

**The more we are changed, the
more we desire change.**

Psalm 19:7-8 (ESV), “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

**Four Truths and Opposites That
Occur when we Devote to or
Neglect the Word of God:**

1. Truth – The law is perfect and revives the soul - **Opposite** – If the word revives the soul, bringing life – being without the word depletes the soul, bringing death.

2. Truth – The statutes are trustworthy and make the simple wise - **Opposite** – If the Word makes the simple wise – being without the Word leaves the simple unwise, lacking discernment and ability to make decisions that are God-centered rather than self-centered.

3. Truth – The Precepts are right and give joy to the heart - Opposite – If the Word brings joy to the heart – being without the Word brings misery, unhappiness, sorrow, and grief to the heart.

4. Truth – The Commands are radiant and give light to the eyes - **Opposite** – If the Word gives light to the eyes – being without the Word leaves the eyes dark and blinded, lacking direction.

Without the Word we are depleted and sorrowful souls wandering in darkness, far from God, lacking the ability to make God-centered decisions.

Luke 14:26–27, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters-yes, even their own life-such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

**When we make anything other than
God of primary importance, it
becomes our idol, demanding our
worship and loyalty.**

Exodus 20:2-3, I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

“Hide yourself in God, so when a man wants to find you, he will have to go there first.”

III. Guard Your Desires

**A desire is a deep longing that
sets the direction for our
hearts.**

Psalm 37:4, Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. The desires that Lord is talking about here are godly desires.

Proverbs 11:6, The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

Consider these three Questions:

- 1. Is what I want something that God has clearly prohibited?**
- 2. Am I willing to use any means necessary to get what I want?**
- 3. Why do I want what I want?**

Overcoming lust and evil desires is a battle that cannot be won alone.

Titus 2:11-12, "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."

Romans 13:13-14, "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."

Galatians 5:16-17, "So I say walk by the spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh."

1 Peter 1:14-16, "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

Our desires, like our appetites, can be trained. We must first wean ourselves off what is not beneficial and develop a yearning for the things of God.

**“God authors desires in your heart,
then fulfills His will by enabling
you to realize those desires.”**

IV. Guard Your Time with God

An intimate relationship with God is foundational for every Christian. Without an ongoing connectedness with God, we die in our spirit. All meaningful relationships require time.

**A life that abides in God rises
above all distractions.**

“If you find yourself a bit irritated or overwhelmed, it is a sign that you are spending less time with God and more time with the world.”