



**Need Prayer? Call us at 530-620-2717**

Dear Partners,

April 2017

It's hard to believe that we are already in the 4<sup>th</sup> month of this year and well into 2017. Time has been flying by for us here at JMM as we're sure it has been for you too! It's easy to adopt a routine and find ourselves on Monday morning having gone through the same old thing week after week. Days can catch us off-guard and we lose our sense of time.

Here at JMM we have been discussing the topic of distractions. Distractions are everywhere. They are unavoidable at times and, if allowed, they can really veer us off track. In the age of fast moving technology, TV media, social media and instant information at our fingertips, we can find ourselves on overload with so much going on around us. It's important to understand that satan will use these various outlets as distractions to take our attention away from God and onto worldly things. This is his tactic to disconnect us from God's Word. **When we become disconnected from His Word, we aren't able to decipher the voices and noises around us from His voice.**

As Christians it's important to **discern** what is distracting and robbing us of our time. The only way to receive this discernment is through the **Holy Spirit**. Discernment is the ability to decide between truth and error, right and wrong. It is the process of making distinctions in our daily thinking about truth. The Holy Spirit is very gentle. His voice can easily be drowned out by the noise around us if we aren't on guard. First Thessalonians 5:21-22 tells us this about discernment:

***"But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast. Abstain from evil [shrink from it and keep aloof from it] in whatever form or whatever kind it may be." AMP***

The NASB version says to **examine everything carefully**. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us that when He leaves the earth, He will not leave us orphans. He promised that the Father would send us a Counselor or Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit that would lead us into ALL truth. When we allow the Holy Spirit to test and examine everything around us we will find it easier to navigate life. **There is a great deceiver in the world and his name is satan**. The Bible warns that he can appear as angel of light and lead millions into the gate of death and destruction. Knowing that there is a great deceiver in our world should constantly keep us guarded and aware of what we are feeding ourselves with, what we listen to and what we speak. James 4:8 says this about our deceiver, **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."** NKJV

God never intended for us to just go through the motions of being a Christian. That's why He left the Holy Spirit as our guide. **There is a real warfare going on all around us every day** that constantly tries to distract us from **our daily relationship with Jesus**. The truth is that satan has declared warfare on every believer *that fights the good fight*. Notice that we didn't say on every *single believer*. He is after those who earnestly seek after Him and desire Him more than this world. He is after you and me. It's a daily sacrifice to feed ourselves from the Word. It requires time management and discipline. But once we become rooted in His Word and begin meditating on it, we begin to receive revelations and power. Why do we need this power? **We need this power to be able to stand against the distractions of this world that seek to rob us of our time and energy (Eph 6:13)**. The Holy Spirit will give us the power we need to discern what is good and what is evil in the world we're living in.

Recently the Lord gave a dream to someone in our family. In the dream we were sitting around in a circle discussing certain scriptures and meditating on them. And **Jesus** showed up to our Bible study. He was physically there talking and fellowshiping with us. One member of our family was distracted because she was star-struck by Jesus being there instead of enjoying the divine visitation. She was busy taking pictures of Him and posting them on social media. When the Bible study ended, she wanted to meet with Jesus and say goodbye to Him but He had already left. She began sobbing and searching for Him. In her agony Jesus came back to her in the place she was standing. He told her, "I know you were searching for Me but I have to go." She said, "No, no please don't leave Lord, please don't leave me." **His response was that He would be back very soon and then He left.**

When we are distracted by the things around us that continue to rob us of our time, we can miss Jesus. First Corinthians 10:23 tells us that all things are permissible and we're free to do anything we please but not all things are helpful or profitable. **By simply staying "busy" we can miss an opportunity with Jesus that is sitting right in front of us.** Sometimes it may be too late to get that moment back. Fortunately in this dream, Jesus did come back to say goodbye. Sadly, she had already missed so much of the precious communion they had together during Bible study. Don't let this happen to you. Make a commitment today that you will not allow yourself to be distracted by everything else around you that fights for your attention. Your discernment level will go up; you will begin to see great changes in your life. Most importantly the Holy Spirit will begin revealing things to you that only He can.

**This month we will celebrate Passover, His death and glorious resurrection!** Do you find yourself going through the motions of **Passover** without really giving any thought to the wonderful act that Jesus did for us? It can seem overwhelming at times because of everything going on around us, but we don't want this celebration to pass us by without meditating on what Jesus did. **We don't want to take lightly the Perfect Sacrifice that God offered on our behalf.** Besides the birth of Christ, the celebration of Passover on Resurrection Sunday is the most important of all. Just like the song entitled *Boasting* by Lacrae says, *Without the cross there's only condemnation, if Jesus wasn't executed there's no celebration*

Thank God for sending His son Jesus as a pardon for our sins! We will never taste death because of the price that Jesus paid on the cross. This gives us the cause for celebration! And this celebration shouldn't just take place once a year during Easter time. *Passover is not to be celebrated just once a year*; it's every time we take communion and remember His covenant with and sacrifice for us (1 Cor. 11:24-26). Without the Resurrection of Jesus there would be no redemption of sins. **Pause for a moment this Passover, thank Him for His never-ending love for you and for the price that was paid on Calvary for you.**

We are laborers together with you! John is currently on the mission field but he'll be back with us on Resurrection Sunday. Please pray for his safe return! Thank you for being part of this Ministry and believing in us. Here at JMM we work round the clock, together with you, to depopulate hell and populate heaven!! Let's continue on this journey together and see lives being restored by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Have a blessed Passover and remember that Jesus is coming back soon!**

**In Christ,**

*John & Alexandra and the JMM team*