

**BOTTOM LINE WITH GOD'S WORD
FOR MEN #60**

Theme: "Lack of Focus"

Scripture: 1 John 2:17 (NIV)

"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

A Thought:

I was reading my morning devotion *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young and it reminded me of years past how many times I felt bad and became discouraged about my focus and walk with the Lord. The first two sentences of the devotion I know will encourage many of you men. Here goes and listen to the words. *Jesus Calling...* "DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED by the difficulty of keeping your focus on Me. I know that your heart's desire is to be aware of My Presence continually." If the above thoughts are true and we truly have a deep desire to be in His Presence He does not want us to beat ourselves up. However we must be in constant communication with Him. It doesn't take much effort to slowly wander away. We live in a world of distractions and we get caught up in the daily grind. All due to work, family, school, sports on television, hobbies and even church activities. Believe me it is very easy to take our eyes off the Lord. He will not let us fail....the Holy Spirit will not let us fail. Apostle Paul tells us in his discussions to the churches in Galatia...Galatians 5:16 (NIV) "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- **To stay focused...join a Bible group.**
- **To stay focused...set a time to pray every day.**
- **To stay focused...identify a spiritual mentor.**
- **To stay focused...fellowship with men of the Christian faith.**

Scriptures to read:

- **Exodus 33:14; Isaiah 30:15; Psalm 116: 5-7, 119:10-11, 14; Hebrews 4:14-16; Ephesians 4:22-24, 5:20; 1 John 2:3-6, 2:12, 14, 15-17, 1 John 3:18, 19-20**

Quote: Sarah Young, Author, Jesus Calling, *“Rejoice in these tiny triumphs, and they will increasingly light up your days.”*

Bottom Line:

Yield yourself to the Lord. His Presence is there waiting for you. He understands you and he is aware of your trials including your busyness. The truth is the truth and you must not walk away from it. Men, to stay focused we cannot do it by ourselves....Luke 18:14b (NIV) *“For everyone who exalt themselves will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”* Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California tell us that his way of staying focused as a believer is to completely surrender his life to the Lord and Savior. Gents - when you lose focus and subsequently there is tinge of guilt remember yesterday is yesterday. Mother Teresa reminds us of this in so many words....that *” Yesterday is gone, Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only to day...let us begin!”*

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray