

Pk's Perspectives ... Distraction

What distracts you from the priority of your walk with Jesus? What's the name of the "squirrel" that regularly scoots across your brain, drawing your attention away from the primacy of pursuing intimacy with Jesus and shifting it onto less important issues that are not nearly as critical as the squirrel wants you to think?

Distraction is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as "a thing that prevents someone from giving full attention to something else; extreme agitation of the mind or emotions." An additional shade of meaning in defining distraction is found at collinsdictionary.com: "Something that serves as a diversion or entertainment."

Firstly, I hope it's obvious that unconfessed sin in the heart of a Christ follower is a major source of spiritual distraction; willful, defiant disobedience is actually a few degrees more serious than a distraction, forming a menacing roadblock to spiritual growth. Yet there are things that distract us from the primacy of our calling in Christ that are not necessarily bad or immoral or dangerous in and of themselves; often the spiritual distractions in our lives are bland outside of the fact of how they sidetrack our spiritual growth.

I'll give you an example. Several weeks ago, the sun visor on the driver's side of my truck broke - something popped one day when I reached up to lower the visor and after that, the visor would no longer stay in the up position. I didn't realize how annoying and distracting a sun visor could be when it was constantly in the down position! I had to either bend my head down and look under the visor or hold it up with my hand to see when the traffic light turned green. (A couple of times I tried waiting for the car behind me to honk but the honks didn't sound friendly!) Other than when the sun is in your eyes, there is nothing good about a droopy visor. I tried rotating it to my door window which opened up my front view just fine but wasn't great for seeing the car in my blind spot when I needed to change lanes, or when I needed to read street name signs...not to mention the times I turned my head quickly to the left, forgetting about the visor, and left a nose impression on the aggravating thing.

It took two weeks to get a new visor shipped, so I did my best MacGyver imitation by re-shaping and positioning a paper clip in such a way as to hold my visor in a half-lifted position. At least it was out of my way — until I hit a bump or shut the door too hard and my visor slowly came back down. If I suddenly needed the visor to block the sun, the paper clip would pop out and then I had to either keep driving with my visor down or pull off in a parking lot, retrieve the paper clip from wherever it landed, re-position it, and continue on the journey. One day as I was getting into my truck, the brim of my ball cap caught on the drooping visor causing my hat to fall into the back seat, the paper clip to fall in the floor, and the visor dropped down into its sun protection position. The entire broken visor experience was an aggravating, frustrating distraction!

Thankfully the broken visor didn't cause me to wreck but it did distract me. I've since replaced it with a genuine new visor and sometimes when driving I'll reach up, flip the visor down, and flip it back up just to experience the satisfaction of no longer having to work around the old, broken one.

Again, what distracts you from the priority of your walk with Jesus? What's the name of the squirrel that draws your attention away from the primacy of your journey with Jesus? But most important: what are you doing about it? Are you trying to devise a way to live with the distraction or are you intent on letting Jesus remove it while giving you something even better? Love you, PK.