



CAGED CURIOSITY

Week 34 | January 20, 2025

Curiosity, a **hunger** for *answers* to life's most important questions, is one of the **driving forces** that *brings the lost* to God and His children into deeper knowledge of their father. (2 Pet. 3:18; Mat. 13:12) This **aching** for *knowledge* and **longing** for *wisdom* can be a powerful catalyst in the advancement of God's kingdom. It's no wonder, then, that the Enemy has sought to **cage our curiosity** in an effort to keep the unbeliever *in darkness* and to prevent the Christian from shining their light. As we pray for our families, churches, and communities this week, fight for the **release** of this God-given desire so that we might be *set free* from the bondage of:

1. **DISTRACTION** (Proverbs 4:25-27)

- a. **NOTE:** Oftentimes the Enemy doesn't have to work hard to **divert us** from the pursuit of greater *spiritual knowledge*. Instead, he simply places something along the path to life that leads us **astray**. Whether it be the gleam of *promised gold* or the shimmer of a deadly fire, there will always be **something urgent** attempting to pull us away from that which is *most important*. To resist these shiny objects requires **discipline** and *resilience* beyond our own ability. Thank the Lord, though, for nothing is impossible with His help! (Matthew 13:22; 2 Timothy 1:7; Luke 18:27)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for giving us Your Spirit of **power, love, and self-discipline**. I lift up to You now all of the *distractions* in, among, and around our lives that are preventing us from asking the questions and seeking the **answers** that *lead to life*. I give You all of the alluring and worrisome traps that have pulled *our attention* away from where it should be and I ask, Lord, that You would give us instead a holy **focus, discipline, and curiosity** that leads us back *into Your arms*. Thank You, Lord, for being the only thing truly worthy of all of our *focus and fixation*."
 1. **REMEMBER:** Satan's aim often isn't to make us **bad**, but *busy*. The cure is having God's priorities. (Matthew 6:33)

2. **LAZINESS** (Proverbs 13:4)

- a. **NOTE:** Spiritual truth does not always **come easily**. It often requires *effort, energy, and endurance*. Unfortunately, most of the time when the going gets tough, we **give up**. Our *apathy* and *disinterest* keeps us from pursuing and receiving the **revelation of God** that ultimately leads to our *freedom* and *restoration*. How are we to snap out of this **lethargy** that *saps our energy* and robs our motivation? What are we to do when **our fire** has grown *cold* and *dormant*, lacking the fuel necessary to ignite? We must **turn to the Father**, who can inflame even the most *saturated of timber*, and ask Him to relight us once more. (Proverbs 21:25; 1 Kings 18:30-39; Psalm 104:4)

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for **receiving us back** after we’ve *grown cold*. I lift up to You the attitude of apathy that has **stifled our curiosity** and hindered our *pursuit of Your truth*. Kill within us the laziness that limits our desire for answers when they grow **difficult to find**. Give us instead, Lord, a *fiery passion* for Your word and revelation that compels us to **keep seeking** even when the answers *don’t come easily*. Thank You, Father, for never growing cold in Your **affections for us.**”
 1. **REMEMBER:** There will always be an **excuse** NOT to do *something good*. Look instead for the reason TO do it anyway. (**Proverbs 26:13**)

3. **CONFORMITY** (**Romans 12:2**)

- a. **NOTE:** If the Enemy cannot **derail** our *pursuit of truth* by distraction or laziness he will then turn to a more subtle means of **diversion**. The serpent is the king of *half-truths*, remember, and he will often offer up a worldly perspective or explanation to quell our God-given **curiosity** and keep us from receiving the *full and undiluted word of God*. In all reality, **conformity** to these *superficially wise philosophies* keeps us from experiencing all that God wills for our lives and instead traps us in a state of **destructive ignorance**. The key to overcoming this trap is found in *discernment*, a gift from God that cuts through the smoke and mirrors, **exposing** the fragrant lies for the *manure* they truly are. (**Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 5:16; Psalm 119:125**)
 - i. **For Ex.** “Dear Lord, thank You for **rescuing us** from the *kingdom of darkness* so that even though we may remain in this world we know we are not **of this world**. Grant to us today the *gift of discernment* so that we might see through the fog of delusion that the Enemy has spread in order to tempt us **to conformity**. Grant to us instead an *insatiable hunger* to see, hear, and know Your perspective on a matter, for that is where **real truth** is found. Thank You, Lord, for making the *secret things known* to us and for shining Your light in the **dark places.**”
 1. **REMEMBER:** A life of **comfort** or a life of **conviction**, the choice is made in what “*truth*” you will settle for. (**Hebrews 11:1**)

Questions for Reflection:

- What **shiny object** has *the Enemy* used to tempt you off trail?
 - **Consecrate** it to God, *surrendering* and *submitting* it to Him. Its influence will lessen as you bring it under His authority.
- Have you **grown cold** in your *walk* and *relationship* with God?
 - Remember His deeds from **days gone by**. Let what He has done for you in the past *fuel your flame* in the future.
- Have you allowed the **half-truths** of the world to *easily pacify* your spiritual curiosity?
 - Don’t settle for **comfortable complacency**, God has *so much more* in store for you!