**Locking In**

August 19, 2018

**How can we best persevere in focused prayer?**

We must prayerfully strive to overcome:

1. Distractions
2. The demonic
3. Doubt
4. Disinterest
5. Despondency

**If we want to persevere in focused prayer, we need to discover and then lift our specific struggle(s) up to Jesus, asking Him to supernaturally work in our areas of weakness, overcoming them by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Taking it Home:

1. For what reasons am I struggling to lock into focused prayer? (Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart about this.)
2. What change(s) will I make this week in order to live a life of more impactful, focused prayer?

**Mark 1:35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

**Luke 5:16** But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

**Psalm 119:15** I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

**Habakkuk 2:20** But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him."

**Luke 10:38-40** As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

**Psalm 46:10** "Be still, and know that I am God;

**Galatians 5:16-17** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.**Matthew 6:24**  "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

**Mark 9:22-24**  "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23 "'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." 24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

**Proverbs 3:5-8**  Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

**Revelation 2:2-5**  I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

**1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**Psalm 40:1-3** I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. 2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.