

# A SEASON OF FOCUS

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Hebrews 12:1-2

<sup>51</sup> *As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.*

Luke 9:51

<sup>7</sup> *Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.*

Isaiah 50:7

I. This is a season of laser focus.

A. God must be sought for Himself. (Matthew 6:33)

<sup>33</sup> *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

B. The kingdom of God must be our only focal point.  
(Philippians 3:13,14)

<sup>13</sup> *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is*

*behind and straining toward what is ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

C. We can always control our focus.

II. In praise of mono-tasking / The myth of multi-tasking.

A. “Pursuing multiple new habits makes us more likely to fail at all of them.” David Carlin

B. Napoleon won 90% of all the battles he fought for 20 years, because he would always focus on a single objective, concentrating his focus at one decisive point. He would not multitask. Multitasking drains your energy.

D. “Victory comes from being able to have stronger forces than the enemy at the point of attack.” Napoleon

E. The art of war consists in concentrating very heavy fire at one particular point.

F. No focus equals fruitlessness.

G. The wrong focus equals fruitlessness.

H. True focus is mono-tasking.

III. The power of focus

A. Power comes with focus. (Proverbs 4:25)

*<sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.*

B. Order follows focus.

C. Talent flows to focus.

D. Peace flows from focus.

E. Elisha had focus. (I Kings 2:9-10)

<sup>9</sup> *When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.*  
<sup>10</sup> *“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours-- otherwise, it will not.”*

F. Peter had focus. (Matthew 14:30)

<sup>30</sup> *But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”*

G. Until you know where you’re going, you will be a permanent student in the school of diversion.

H. Solomon was highly diverted. (I Kings 11:1-13)

#### IV. Coup d’oeil / Napoleon’s glance

A. Napoleon saw when and where to fight in a sudden flash of insight. (Pronounced coo doy)

B. Napoleon did not know where he would fight until the moment coup d’oeil came to him. That’s why most of his victories were in places with unusual names.

C. Napoleon studied all the great generals, and knew all of their successful tactics, and kept them like arrows in his quiver. He would then bring them to bear in a single moment.

D. Napoleon never tried to impose his will on circumstances, rather he yielded to them.

E. The only time Napoleon ever lost is when he rejected coup d’oeil and told his enemies where he was going.

- F. If you don't see a battle to win, keep moving until you do.
- V. It's time for concentrated and fruitful divine appointments.
  - A. Like Napoleon, take the sum of all your and others' knowledge, wisdom, and experience, and
  - B. Apply all of these as the Holy Spirit leads you in divine appointments.