

"Time for an Inversion?"



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom

our faith depends from start to finish.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)

At one point in its flow, the Deschutes River in Oregon inverts. Confronting a formidable rock formation, what had been over 100' wide and 5' deep becomes roughly 20' wide and 25' deep. Intense focus has caused the river to become narrow and deep. Transforming from static, impotent, benign... it becomes dynamic, powerful, impactful. For a rafter, impassable. Nothing hinders its progress.

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all of its fullness.” Jesus Christ (John 10:10)

Pleasant, gentle, nice... a “wide and shallow” life lures us, but lack of focus dilutes its impact. Your enemy, the Boxer, works tirelessly to keep you here, ineffective. Jesus on the other hand calls you to live a full life, intensely focused on him and on the race he’s set before you (your Mission); to live a “narrow and deep” life.

Reflect: Would I characterize the way I live my life as “wide and shallow” or “narrow and deep?”

Have you come to terms yet with the reality that a battle rages over your life?

“By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.” (Hebrews 11:33-34)

Equate your faith with the formidable rock formation that focuses the Deschutes. Lacking it, can your Mission overcome the Boxer’s schemes? Have you sensitized yourself to his tactics, his subtle jabs?

- “Life is supposed to be pleasant, comfortable. Why would you put this at risk?”
- “Increased focus means you’ll have to say ‘no’ sometimes. You don’t want to ruffle feathers, do you?”
- “Look at everyone else... don’t you deserve what they have?”

The list goes on and on... his words strategically targeted to undermine Jesus’ promise to give you a full, fruitful, enduring life. You are no match! Yet, intensely focusing on Jesus and the Mission he’s given you transforms your weakness into tremendous power. Life inverted!

Consider: Intense, faithful focus on Jesus and my Mission liberates my life.

Born behind enemy lines and having been raised immersed in its culture, though you may not realize it, you have accumulated vast quantities of baggage; burdens that hinder your race. What excesses

are you carrying? How can you excise them?

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”
(Hebrews 4:12)

The Boxer focuses his jabs on what remains of your old self, those parts still living, your innermost thoughts and desires. If only we weren't so receptive!

“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

Resist! Humbly let the Spirit direct yours. Though painful, the slicing away of deeply-rooted desires is liberating. A friend recently expressed how peace filled he is now, having given up his big home (and mortgage) for a modified barn/shop/studio (debt free!) Why is it that when faced with giving something up, we focus on what we are letting go of instead of what we are gaining? God's promises are trustworthy... do you believe him yet?

*Imagine: **My Life becoming dynamic, powerful and impactful.***

Advancing your Mission requires fresh focus on it daily. Refocus throughout the day as well. Intensify your focus! Be intentional! Align your life with your Mission and Jesus will strip away

what hinders you and you will gain the full life he came to give you.

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." The Apostle Paul (Romans 12:2)

Are you ready to become the new person Jesus intended; the one that is dynamic, powerful, and impactful? Ask yourself, "Is it...

"Time for an Inversion?"

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What jab is the Boxer hitting me with right now? What will I do to resist it?
- How can I step up my daily focus on Jesus? On my Mission?
- What else will I do to live a "narrow and deep" life?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Become Narrow and Deep

*"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing:
Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end
of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is
calling us."*

The Apostle Paul | Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)



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~ DAN B.

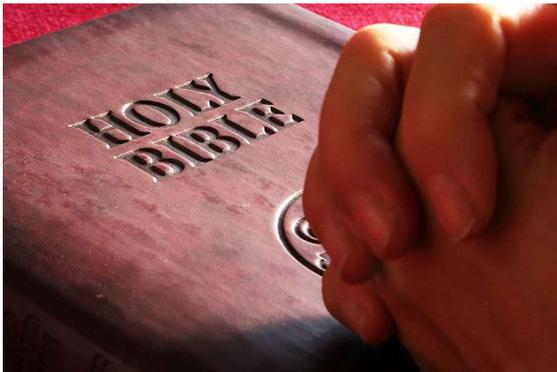
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