

Greetings!

If you're like me, it can be difficult to stay on track when you have so many things coming at you. Keeping my eye on what is necessary should be priority number one, but I'm a proud *multitasker!*

Just maybe, we need to readjust our approach; both to our daily lives and to our spiritual life as well, if we are to reach some significant goals. *We need the eye of the tiger!*

Eye of the Puppy Dog

They were behind in the score, and losing miserably when he ran off the field. "I want a hotdog too!" Standing before me was the center fielder, with his new baseball glove, ready for the big play and wearing his cap cocked to the side showing his seriousness about the game.

"I said I want a hotdog!"

"Son, your coach is yelling at you to return to your position."

"But I want a hotdog!"

"You can have a hotdog when you finish playing. Now go back to your position before the coach takes you out of the game!"

Little league mothers shook their heads in disbelief as if to say, "That kid will never make it." You may laugh, but I'm willing to bet you've had the "*eye of the puppy dog*" as well.

I still remember when Anthony, a coworker, stood before me breathless and, with a look of desperation, saying, "I work so hard and never seem to get anything accomplished."

"That's because you have the eye of the puppy dog." I replied.

"Whaaaat?"

"You heard me; you have the eye of the puppy dog." I repeated.

With Anthony still looking at me, confused, I asked, "Have you ever heard of the eye of the tiger?"

"Yes."

"Well Anthony, you have the eye of the puppy dog. They can never stay focused on one thing. The moment you toss a ball across a puppy dog's path, that's their focus; but the moment they catch up to it, they're off in another direction. That's you."

Anthony wandered back toward his work area muttering, "eye of the puppy dog" repeatedly to himself, as if to engrave it into his thinking.

The mantra of our society is "multitasking" as if that's a good thing, and I guess if you're a computer operating system, it is. The fact though, is that we have allowed our lifestyles to dictate our need to multitask. Like bouncing balls, so many things come at us from all directions until, like the puppy dog in his confusion, we're chasing our tails.

Unfortunately, we have allowed this *need* to multitask dictate our spiritual lives as well. With our lives having become *sarled* with a lot of “*spiritual*” stuff, we can’t stay focused on what’s really necessary for our growth in Christ. Like just another daily checklist of things to do, we approach God, checking them off until we’re satisfied we have accomplished our spiritual task for the day.

We are quickly losing the art of meditating on the Word and have no real conception of what it means to “wait on the Lord”. Wait! Why wait when you can get something else accomplished while waiting! And then, we wonder why our spiritual lives feel so empty.

The Apostle Paul said to the Philippians, “. . . but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Now that’s focus!

Cocking our hats and patting our gloves with our fist, like my six-year-old son Josh, we look ready for the big play, but our minds are on a hotdog. The coach is trying to get our focus back on the position we’re called to play, but we’re too busy multitasking.

Doesn’t he understand that playing center field while eating a hotdog is my gift?

And that's just a thought . . .

My Final Word

Can you imagine attending a major league game and seeing all the players on the field multitasking? The first baseman is eating nachos while the pitcher stuffs down a hotdog between pitches, and the centerfield player is texting the third baseman. If we’re all so good at multitasking, why couldn’t this be the norm at a baseball game?

In reality, isn’t this a picture of how we often approach our spiritual lives? Like many of you, I found myself with the eye of the puppy dog chasing every *spiritual* ball that crossed my path causing me to lose focus on the primary goal.

Getting myself back on track is not easy; every bouncing ball calls for my attention. While praying, I find my mind is searching through the day’s hours to see what must be done and I wish I knew how to read only one book at a time (I think I’m currently reading around six simultaneously). Some would say that this *distraction thing* going on in my life is a personality issue, but I’m starting to think of it more as a sin issue and attacking it as such.

Satan would love nothing better than to distract us from our primary purpose of playing our position in the game of life. To that end, not everything he sends our way is necessarily bad, it is just a distraction from what we're supposed to be doing. Being wise enough to know the difference is the first step; the second is being strong enough to avoid the trap.

We have become so proud of our ability to multitask that not doing so is seen as more of a weakness than a strength. I find myself however, envying those who know how to focus on a primary goal until it is finished. If we are to grow spiritually, then we must learn to keep *first things first* and allow all the other stuff to wait without stressing over it!

FOCUSED (I hope),

Chris

