



Monday Matters

February 9, 2015

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Have you ever tried to accomplish something special but just couldn't finish it? Maybe it was trying to complete a remodeling job in your home, writing that research paper for a class in college, or putting together a sermon series or a special presentation at work. People keep interrupting you and asking unrelated questions. Possibly your thoughts drift to the Kentucky Wildcats basketball game and will they remain unbeaten. Sometimes one even looks back at past failures or lack of success. The bottom line is, you have lost your focus.

In January of 1993, the Buffalo Bills were playing the Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl. Like any major sporting event there were numerous reporters trying to interview coaches and players of the two teams which provided much distraction from preparing for the game itself.



Jimmy Johnson, then coach of the Cowboys, was worried at halftime that his team would lose their focus in the second half. He related this incident as follows: *"I told them that if I laid a two-by-four across the room, everybody would walk across it and not fall because our focus would be that we were going to walk that two-by-four. But if I put that same two-by-four 10 stories high between two buildings only a few would*

make it because the focus would be on falling. Focus is everything. The team that is more focused today is the team that will win the game."

Johnson went on to tell his team not to be distracted by the media, the people in the stands, or the possibility of losing the game but to keep their focus on every play of the game itself.

The application to each of us is, we tend to lose our focus because we become worried about negative possibilities, about falling off the two-by-four. We lose sight of our goals by being distracted by fears and worries. We should not be looking back at past failures but look ahead and stay focused.

In Philippians 3, it says, "***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.***" (NKJV).

As followers of Jesus, we should always keep our focus on Him. Don't lose that focus because of what others are saying or doing. If He has placed a calling, a goal, on your life, stay focused on Him.



He Leadeth Me - Piano/Cello

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