

# Focus Creates Tunnel Vision

Mike Murdock teaches that “focus creates blindness”.<sup>1</sup> When you focus on the north, you can't see what's in the south. Focussing produces tunnel vision so that you are effectively 'blind' to what's going on elsewhere.

Among believers it's been standard practice for individuals to focus on one component of church operation. This derives from a person's 'calling' which becomes the focus for their lives. This mindset is reinforced by the scripture teaching that we all have a function in the Body of Christ.<sup>2</sup>

This mono-focussing by believers develops 'over-the-top' proportions as many cannot see past their own particular focus. Their focus consumes them so that they are 'blind' or intolerant to other Body functions. This is to the detriment of believer's fellowships and is one of the bases for schisms (heresies<sup>3</sup>) that break up church groups and interpersonal relationships. I've experienced this 'blindness' in others over many years and found it to be commonplace in the church system.

Evangelists tend to be hyper-focused on evangelism. Everything is about evangelism and evangelism is all they talk about and do. Anyone not evangelising is criticised at various levels for their lack godly enthusiasm. Is this attitude wrong – YES. Is evangelism all there is in the Kingdom – NO.

Intercessors tend to be hyper-focused on intercession. Everything is about intercession and intercession is all they want to talk about and all they want to do. Anyone not interceding is criticised at various levels for their lack godly enthusiasm. Is this attitude wrong – YES. Is intercession all there is in the Kingdom – NO.

I've found the same goes for:

- Prayer 'warriors'
- Missionary supporters
- Spiritual warfare proponents
- Theologians
- Bible teachers
- The prophetic community
- Music worshippers
- Creative worshippers
- Torah-keeping Christians
- Messianic Christians

Take intercessors and prayer 'warriors' for example. They use the following scripture as the 'hammer' to bludgeon all those who aren't always in prayer:

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** (NKJV) – *pray without ceasing,*

They believe that this phrase means that every believer should be praying 24/7. If they aren't, they're not fulfilling their Christian duty.

But there's a problem here with the English translation of the Greek that produces this reference. Here are 18 different ways the Greek can be translated:

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1 – Mike Murdock (2012) “365 Wisdom Keys of Mike Murdock” Wisdom Int. Inc. #163

View them here: [www.facebook.com/annie.merz.12/posts/10204546551568608](http://www.facebook.com/annie.merz.12/posts/10204546551568608)

2 – 1 Corinthians 12:14-16

3 – The NT meaning of the word in the Greek

- [KJ21](#) – Pray without ceasing.
- [AMP](#) – be unceasing *and* persistent in prayer;
- [AMPC](#) – Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly];
- [CEB](#) – Pray continually.
- [YLT](#) – continually pray
- [CJB](#) – Pray regularly.
- [CEV](#) – and never stop praying.
- [DARBY](#) – pray unceasingly;
- [DLNT](#) – be praying unceasingly,
- [ERV](#) – Never stop praying.
- [EXB](#) – Pray continually [without ceasing],
- [ISV](#) – Continually be prayerful.
- [MSG](#) – pray all the time;
- [GNT](#) – pray at all times,
- [HCSB](#) – Pray constantly.
- [TLB](#) – Always keep on praying.
- [NET](#) – constantly pray,
- [WE](#) – Do not despise people who speak words from God.

So, does every believer have to be praying 24/7? NO. In fact, Paul regarded widows as the source of such prayer commitment.<sup>4</sup>

This inappropriate attitude towards those who don't do the same as those with mono-focus is from a different spirit and very commonplace in our Western culture. Just think about how you are treated and spoken to if you're not into any of these: environmentalism; recycling; world peace; deviant sexuality; same-sex marriage; socialism; the welfare society; climate change; etc. Recognise the spirit behind this attitude? You should.

The only focus that doesn't make you 'blind' is focussing on the 'big picture'. The 'big picture' view encompasses everything and nothing is missed out. Just like a helicopter view of the landscape: the pilot sees in 3D, not 2D as those on the ground do. This is why it's been stated for years that God has the 'big picture' view of everyone's life, being able to see the beginning, the present and the end at the same time.

### **The big picture is the Kingdom.**

If we focus on the Kingdom and carry out our assignments as sons we will not be mal-focussed. Instead we will be about our Kingdom business and allowing everyone else to do what they have to do – all while enjoying each other without any divisions.

Jesus (our prototype) showed us exactly how this operates. His only focus was the Kingdom:

- He talked to others about the Kingdom – Most of his parables were about the Kingdom. “The Kingdom is like...” he would begin.
- He taught his disciples extensively about the Kingdom – Acts 1:3
- He preached the good news of the Kingdom – Mark 1:14
- He spoke about the Kingdom's benefits – Matthew 4:23
- He touched people with the Kingdom – Matthew 12:28

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4 – 1 Timothy 5:5

- He concentrated on the Kingdom's monarch – Matthew 13:43
- He sent out his disciples with the same focus – Matthew 10:7-8
- He prepared his people for his return to fully establish the Kingdom on Earth – Matthew 24
- He stood against those who prevented others from accessing the Kingdom – Matthew 23:13

Jesus' focus on the Kingdom meant that he:

- Talked and taught about it
- Raised up others to function in it
- Participated in the Kingdom's expansion
- Was committed to the Kingdom's leader (Father for him)

In like manner, Canberra Forerunners & our Kingdom Living Community's focus as stated on the website is:

### **The King; the Kingdom; & the King's return.**

This brings me to an important point: The Kingdom is not about doing, but about being. Once a person becomes who they were created to be, their function flows naturally out of that and there is no religion or legalism about it. It flows from intimacy with the King – it's not a status or an identity.

Also, Kingdom citizens (Kingdom sons) are to be **BALANCED**, just like Jesus of Nazareth was balanced. Check him out in the gospels. His focus was the Kingdom 'big picture', not a component of it. He had no biases. He wasn't an evangelist, yet he evangelised whenever he spoke about the Kingdom. He wasn't a prophet, yet he prophesied when he spoke. He wasn't a prayer warrior, yet he lived in constant communication with Father – in a state of oneness. He wasn't a spiritual warfare exponent, yet he warred against the enemy constantly with his whole being. He wasn't a worship proponent, yet everything he did was worship.

Get the picture?

So, focus on The Kingdom – that's the balanced 'big picture'. Let others do what they need to do and cease putting pressure on them to do what you think is the most important.

Laurence

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