

One of the real reasons that we miss the mark is that we lack the power of concentration. How long does it take us when we are trying to study the Bible before a stray thought barges in? For most of us this could be measured in seconds. We find our mind drifting off, distracted by the least little things. We become sidetracked in life itself by questions, by pleasures, and by problems. Paul told the Ephesians in Ephesians 4:14 that they should be no more 'tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine', indicating to me that they were easily sidetracked and led astray. Of course, it is Satan who is doing everything that he can to promote this in us.

I am reminded of my short but brilliant career in the high school marching band. There is a lot of order and discipline required in this type of endeavor, and in the beginning, I seemed to be doing fairly well. But as things got more complicated, I began to notice that, while I was doing all the right things with my feet, my hand was drawn up as though it were crippled. I simply could not concentrate on my whole body at one time. I was the sort of guy that could not walk down the hall and chew gum at the same time. In the Christian walk, we may find the same sort of problems. We will find ourselves doing really well in one area of faith, but failing miserably in another. It is very difficult to bring the total body into subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27). But we must try with all of our might, and with the power of God within us.