

Sabbath Rest

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Distractions!

*While looking up the definition of the word *distraction*, my initial attention was immediately drawn away by following up on all the various definitions, interesting synonyms, and fascinating antonyms!*

Of course I checked it out on the web, only to lose focus on what I started out with and then all these rabbits appeared that needed to be chased.

I know this does not only happen to me, let's be honest, but it is frustrating to find myself at the end of the rabbit trail only to look back on the mostly wasted time spent on it.

Whether I am praying or studying or spending quality time with my spouse, there is always that potential of being distracted, unless the opportunities are intentionally removed.

Luke 4:13 "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."

Jesus was focused on His mission, and still, the enemy kept on looking for another opportune time to distract Him from it!

I have to ask myself, am I willing to put that cell phone out of reach, the tv remote out of sight, the radio shut off?

We often see our guests struggling with all these things for the first 24 to 48 hours after their arrival, until they bathe themselves in our intentionally quiet environment. But, once they realize the benefits, the results are so amazing. Not only the physical rest, but their focus returns to those things that are truly important.

Psalms 62:5 "My soul, **wait silently** for God alone, for my expectation is from Him."



The basis for establishing ECFA and developing *Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship*™ is stated clearly by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:21 (NIV):
" For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord
but also in the eyes of men."



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recognized as a 501 (c) 3
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The purpose of Shepherd's Refuge is:
To strengthen His church to fulfill its Great Commission
by caring for its leadership!

Deuteronomy 11:13-15 *'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'*

What, no pictures?

No, not this time around. What the Lord laid on our hearts to write is more important than pretty pictures. Even if they would say more than a thousand words, they could not express better what is on our hearts! Just believe us, and read!

Human, like you and I!

There seems to be a misconception that those in ministry have it all together. Life's issues don't faze them, they know how to handle whatever comes their way. Whether it's the funeral of a child, counseling with a teenager in jail, busted for drug use, consoling the family in the waiting room at the hospital for news, after their loved one had an accident, listening to both sides and make sense of what they hear from a couple with marriage difficulties, they have the answers in all situations and then some. At least, that is what is expected of them!

But, what if they face those situations in their very own family? What if their granddaughters were molested by someone they had trusted? What if their daughter is walking away from her own ministry and from the Lord, after being deceived by others? What if their own marriage is on the rocks? What if finances are too tight, even working a secular job and being a pastor? What if they simply don't find the physical, emotional or spiritual strength to continue? What if the missions project they have been working on for years in remote areas of the world is being shut down for whatever reason? What if they cannot return to a particular country because of political restrictions or criminal elements destroying their achievements.

We don't claim to have seen it all, but these situations happened to real pastors, ministry leaders and missionaries that were here this summer!

We also don't have the answers, but we know who does!

The purpose of Shepherd's Refuge is:
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by caring for its leadership!*

The mission of Shepherd's Refuge is:
Provide an environment favorable to restoration, refreshment and healing of relationships with God and family, addressing the needs of leaders in the ministry of the Gospel of Christ.

It is not us doing it, but like someone said, 'there is "an open heaven" over Shepherd's Refuge, where the Lord can minister to those who seek Him with a hungry heart!' While here, He meets with them, counsels them, renews them, ministers to them, heals them, encourages them, all because they seek Him and His manifested presence!